THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 13, 2023

Subject: Transit Service Funding Agreement with the Town of Black Mountain for the Route 170

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, Transportation Department Director
Jessica Morriss, Transportation Department Assistant Director
Amber Wagner, Transit Planning Manager

Action Requested: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Town of Black Mountain to provide $25,000 in funding support for transit Route 170 for both Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

Background:

- Asheville Rides Transit (ART) provides daily service between Downtown Asheville and Black Mountain via Route 170.
- The total cost of operating the route is approximately $500,000 annually and the City received Federal transit grant funding through the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization to pay for 50% of the cost to operate route 170 for FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024.
- Earlier this calendar year, the City requested a contribution from the Town of Black Mountain to support a portion of the costs associated with operating the route.
- Black Mountain agreed to provide $25,000 for the current fiscal year (FY 2022-2023) and next.
- An executed agreement is necessary in order to receive and expend the funds for transit operations. This agreement will cover both fiscal years.
- The Town of Black Mountain's contribution will help offset the non-grant funded portion of the operational cost of the route.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Goal(s):

- Improve and Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- The $25,000 in revenue for FY 2022-2023 and $25,000 in revenue for FY 2023-2024 will help to offset existing transit service costs, reducing the overall General Fund contribution to the Transit Operating Fund.

Con(s):

- The City and Town of Black Mountain have not discussed future contributions beyond FY 2023-2024, nor the possibility of an increased level of support in future years.
- In the coming months, staff will work with Black Mountain to explore this possibility for FY 2024-2025.

Fiscal Impact:

- The $25,000 in revenue for FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024 will help to offset existing transit service costs, reducing the overall General Fund contribution to the Transit Operating Fund.
- The cost for this route is already included in the Transit Operating Fund for FY 2022-2023 and in the FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Town of Black Mountain to provide $25,000 in funding support for Route 170 for both Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION 23- ____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN TO PROVIDE FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE ROUTE 170 FOR BOTH FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND FISCAL YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, the City has the authority, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-17.1, to apply for and receive grants from other governmental entities and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

WHEREAS, Asheville Rides Transit provides daily service between Downtown Asheville and Black Mountain via the Route 170; and

WHEREAS, The total cost of operating the route is approximately $500,000 annually and the City received federal transit grant funding through the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization to pay for 50% of the cost to operate the route for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain and the City of Asheville wish to enter into an agreement wherein the Town of Black Mountain provides $25,000 in Fiscal Year 2023 and $25,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 to the City to support the cost of operating the route; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Black Mountain's contribution will help offset the non-grant funded portion of the operational cost of the route and support the City's overall Transit Operations Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT;

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with the Town of Black Mountain to provide $25,000 in funding support for Route 170 for both Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024.

Read, approved and adopted this 13th day of June, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney