THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 28, 2023

Subject: Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Funding.

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director;
Jessica Morriss, AICP, Assistant Transportation Department Director
Katherine Ladnier, Transit Projects Coordinator

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for the remaining $153,674 in available FY 2021-22 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute grant funding to fund a portion of Route S3 (fixed-route) and if successful, to accept the funds, sign all of the appropriate agreements, and include the funds in the City's FY 2023-24 budget.

Background:

- Each year, the City must apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) to receive FTA Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds that are used to support existing transit operations.
- The City applies annually for this funding for Route 170, the fixed-route service operated between downtown Asheville and the Town of Black Mountain.
- This year, there is an additional $153,674 in funding available from the JARC program.
- The MPO asked the City to apply for the additional funding and suggested that the S3 Route met the qualifications of the JARC program.
- Therefore, this action will allow the City to apply for and receive the additional available funds and offset existing expenses for this route.
- This will bring the total amount of JARC funds being provided to the City for FY 2023-24 at $408,394.
- It should be noted that this year is likely the only year where additional funds will be available, therefore this additional grant funding should not be anticipated to continue beyond FY 2023-24.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility
- Improve/Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Enables the City to use federal funds to help offset the existing annual operating cost of Route S3 fixed-route.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- If awarded the grant funding ($153,674), 50% local matching funds ($76,837), and associated expenses will be included in the FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget for the Transit Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for the remaining $153,674 in available FY 2021-22 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute grant funding to fund a portion of Route S3 (fixed-route) and if successful, to accept the funds, sign all of the appropriate agreements, and include the funds in the City's FY 2023-24 budget.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION 23 - _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN ORGANIZATION FOR THE REMAINING $153,674 IN AVAILABLE FY 2022 SECTION 5307 JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE GRANT FUNDING TO FUND A PORTION OF THE ROUTE S3 FOR INCLUSION IN THE FY 2024 BUDGET

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S.§ 160A-17.1, the City is authorized to make contracts for and accept grants and loans from the federal and state governments and their agencies; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) has remaining funding available from the FY 2022 Call for Projects for the Federal Transit Administration FY 2022 Section 5307 JARC Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified an additional project that would be eligible for this funding program and would help fund the operating cost of Route S3 fixed-route services; and

WHEREAS, the FTA will reimburse grant applicants for up to 50% of the operating cost of projects implemented with this funding program; and

WHEREAS, the local match would come from the Transit Operations Funds;

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

The City Manager is authorized to apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for the remaining $153,674 in available FY 2022 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute grant funding to fund a portion of Route S3 (fixed-route) and if successful, to accept the funds, sign all of the appropriate agreements, and include the funds in the City's FY 2024 budget

Read, approved, and adopted this 28th day of March, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney