THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: September 27, 2022

Subject: Budget Amendment for Transportation Grant to Conduct the East Patton Avenue Multimodal Transportation and Streetscape Plans

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Todd Okolichany, Planning and Urban Design Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a budget amendment to appropriate $264,000 in the Special Revenue Fund for the purpose of multimodal transportation planning for the East Patton Corridor.

Background:

- The City applied for a transportation planning grant from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) in January 2022 for the purpose of conducting a multimodal transportation planning study for the East Patton Corridor, roughly between the Jeff Bowen Bridge and Pritchard Park.
- The purpose of the study is to evaluate the NCDOT design for the corridor that is part of the larger I-26 project and identify opportunities for multimodal transportation and placemaking improvements, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways, public spaces and transit, as well as enhance connectivity to existing residential neighborhoods and mixed-use centers, and manage or possibly reduce regional vehicular traffic on Patton Avenue east of the Jeff Bowen Bridge.
- The City Council approved Resolution 22-1 at their meeting held on January 11, 2022, authorizing staff to submit an application requesting $350,000 in grant funds with a 20% match ($70,000), however, the FBRMPO awarded only $220,000, therefore the City's match is $44,000.
- The total appropriated amount is $264,000.
- The Council resolution also authorized the City Manager to execute the necessary agreements with the FBRMPO if funds were awarded.
- This action is to authorize a budget amendment to accept the grant funds and allocate the required matching funds.
- Approval of the budget amendment will allow the City to execute the grant agreement with the FBRMPO and begin work on the study.
- The Planning and Urban Design Department is the lead department and the Transportation Department will provide support.

Council Goal(s):

- A well-planned and liveable community
- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- This is an opportunity to design optimal safety and aesthetically pleasing multimodal transportation connections between the I-26 Connector project and Patton Avenue as it enters downtown after crossing the Jeff Bowen Bridge.
- This is an opportunity to create a welcoming gateway on the west side of downtown Asheville.
- The study area, particularly at the intersections of Patton Avenue and Clingman and Hilliard and Clingman are areas where multiple greenways converge.
- This project will allow safer crossings and connections for the greenways.
- There will be grant opportunities to assist with the funding once it is added to the City of Asheville's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list.

Con(s):

- This study will create a design that will need to be implemented by the City of Asheville.

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for the required $44,000 City match has been identified within the current General Fund operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a budget amendment and authorize the City Manager to accept the funds from the FBRMPO and use the funds for the purpose of a planning study of the East Patton Avenue Multimodal Transportation and Streetscape Designs.

Attachment(s):

- Budget Amendment

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Ordinance be amended to appropriate $264,000 in grant and matching funds for the East Patton Corridor multimodal transportation plan:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Intergovernmental Revenue	$220,000
Transfer from General Fund	$ 44,000
Total Revenues	$264,000

Appropriations:

Contracted Services	$264,000
Total Appropriations	$264,000

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 27th day of September, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney