THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: December 13, 2022

Subject: Authorization to Apply for and Submit Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Section 5307 (JARC) and Section 5310 Grant Applications.

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply and submit grant applications to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for the annual FY22 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and FY22 Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) grant funding to fund existing transit operations for Route 170 (fixed-route), and the City of Asheville's paratransit services, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements, and to include the revenue in the FY24 Budget.

Background:

- Each year, the City must apply to the FBRMPO to receive FTA Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and FTA Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) funds for transit operations, grant management and administration, and reporting.
- On November 2, 2022, FBRMPO issued a Call for Projects for the Federal Transit Administration FY 2022 Section 5307 (JARC) and Section 5310 funds soliciting proposals.
- The deadline for the grant application is December 15, 2022.
- The City utilizes Section 5307 (JARC) funding to support Route 170, the fixed-route service operated between downtown Asheville and the Town of Black Mountain.
    - The total FY22 Section 5307 (JARC) funds available for distribution is $408,394.
    - The City is applying for $254,720 in federal funding.
    - The match requirement for this grant is 50%.
    - In the coming fiscal year, the Town of Black Mountain has agreed to provide $25,000 toward the required matching funds, and Buncombe County is expected to provide approximately $86,000 in matching funds as well.
    - The City will provide the remaining match ($143,720).
- The City utilizes Section 5310 funds to support operation of the City's paratransit service.
    - The total FY2022 Section 5310 funding available is $511,257.
    - Of this funding,10% or $51,125, is automatically allocated to the City of Asheville for administration of the grant.
    - The remaining $460,132 will be awarded for regular 5310 projects and programs.
    - The City is applying for $210,000 in FY22 Section 5310 funding.
    - The match requirement for this grant is 20% ($52,500).

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None.

Pro(s):

- Enables the City to use federal funds to help offset the annual operating cost of paratransit and Route 170 fixed-route services.
- Grant recipients and subrecipients are responsible for their local match.

- The City will receive $51,125 for oversight and administrative cost which does not require a local match.
- These funds will be used for the administrative cost for the Section 5310 program.

Con(s):
- The City is responsible for the 20% and 50% local match for the Section 5310 and JARC Funding programs respectively.
- There is no administrative fee paid to the City for administering the 5307/JARC grant program.

Fiscal Impact:
- If awarded the grant funding ($515,845), matching funds (including $196,220 of City funding), and associated expenses will be included in the Proposed FY24 Budget (Transit Services Fund).

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for FY 2022 Section 5307 JARC Funds in the amount of $254,720. and FY 2022 Section 5310 Funds in the amount of $210,000.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution

RESOLUTION 22-

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR PROJECTS ISSUED BY THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN ORGANIZATION AND TO APPLY TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 SECTION 5310 AND SECTION 5307 JARC GRANT PROGRAMS

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 announced a Call for Projects for the Federal Transit Administration FY 2022 Section 5310 and Section 5307 JARC Grant Programs; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified projects that would be eligible for these funding programs and would help fund the operating cost of paratransit and Route 170 fixed-route services; and

WHEREAS, the FTA will reimburse grant applicants for up to 50 of operating cost and 80 percent of the capital cost of projects implemented with these funding programs; 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 submit grant applications to French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), to apply to the Federal Transit Administration for:

a. FY 2022 Section 5310 Funds in the amount of $210,000, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal, and/or State agencies, and to include the revenue in the FY 23-24 Budget.

b. FY 2022 Section 5307 JARC Funds in the amount of $254,720, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal, and/or State agencies, and to include the revenue in the FY 23-24 Budget.

Read, approved, and adopted this 13h day of December, 2022.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney