THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: May 24, 2022

Subject: Section 5339(b) and 5339(c) FTA Grant Application

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the FY 2022 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and 5339(c) Low or No Emission Vehicle Grant Program to fund capital projects including buses, and related equipment, along with the associated bus accessories and infrastructure, and bus related facilities, and if successful, to accept the funds, sign all of the appropriate agreements, and include in the FY 2023 budget via budget amendment.

Background:

- Each year, the FTA publishes Notice of Funding for competitive grants including the Bus and Bus Facilities Program and Low or No Emissions Grant Program to provide capital assistance to transit systems to purchase buses, related equipment, associated bus accessories and infrastructure, and related bus transportation facilities.
- Grant applications are due May 31, 2022.
- The match requirement for the City is 15%.
- The Transportation Department anticipates applying for six (6) hybrid Gillig buses and six (6) replacement electric batteries for three (3) of our existing hybrid buses (two batteries per bus).
- One application will be submitted for both grants.
- FTA will only award one of the grants, if any.
- The estimated price per hybrid bus is $800,000.
- The estimated price per battery pack (two batteries per pack) is $83,000.
- The total estimated grant request is $5,049,000.
- This would require a $757,350 match from the City, which is programmed in the Transit Capital Fund.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Potential funding sources for six (6) hybrid Gillig buses and six (6) replacement electric batteries for three (3) of our existing hybrid buses needed to maintain and expand the current transit fleet necessary for Asheville Rides Transit (ART) services.

Con(s):

- A $757,350 local match is required from the City if a grant is awarded.

Fiscal Impact:

- As noted above, the $757,350 local match required from the City is programmed in the Transit Capital Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the FY 2022 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and 5339(c) Low or No Emission Vehicle Grant Program.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FOR THE FY 2022 5339(b) GRANTS FOR BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES COMPETITIVE PROGRAM AND 5339(c) LOW OR NO EMISSION VEHICLE GRANT PROGRAM

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 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced an opportunity for $85 million in FY 2022 funds for the 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and 5339(c) Low or No Emission Grant Program to provide capital assistance to purchase buses, related equipment, associated bus accessories and infrastructure, and related bus transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the FTA will reimburse up to 85 percent of the cost of the vehicles and related bus accessories; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified needs that would be eligible for this funding, consistent with the Transit Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 15 percent local match would come from the Transit Capital Fund if awarded,

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

City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the FY 2022 Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and Low or No Emission Vehicle Program in order to purchase six hybrid buses and six replacement electric batteries and if successful, to accept the grant funds and execute a grant agreement.

Read, approved and adopted this 24th day of May, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney