THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: January 25, 2022

Subject: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Grant

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE., Transportation Department Director;
Jessica Morriss, AICP, Assistant Transportation Department Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Public Transportation Division for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funds, which are used to fund a portion of the existing Transit Planning Division personnel budget, and if successful, to accept the grant funds, and sign all the appropriate agreements, and include the revenue in future fiscal year budgets.

Background:

- FTA Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program provides funding for transit planning activities, including personnel.
- The City has historically applied for and received Section 5303 funding to supplement a portion of existing Transit Planning Division staff wages.
- The City has historically received $60,000 (80%) from FTA, and the City and NCDOT have provided $7,500 each in matching funds (20%).
- However, on January 4, 2022, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization notified the City of Asheville that the annual 5303 funding allocation to the Asheville Urbanized Area has increased and next fiscal year the City will receive additional funding.
- The total Federal (80%) share from FTA for the 5303 allocations in FY 2022-23 to the City will increase from $60,000 to $223,082.
- Accordingly, the State and Local (20%) share for each entity will also increase from $7,500 to $27,885 each.
- The application deadline is January 28, 2022.
- If for some reason the Council does not authorize the application on January 25, 2022, staff will withdraw it.
- Upon approval, NCDOT will approve a two-year grant agreement with the City for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- If awarded, staff will budget the funding in upcoming Transit Operating Budgets.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Supplements funding for multiple transit planning positions.
- Enables the City of Asheville to leverage $223,082 in Federal funds and $27,885 in State funds to support the City's transit planning activities.

Con(s):

- The City is responsible for half of the 20% local match, which is $27,885.

Fiscal Impact:

- The required local match in the amount of $27,885 will be included in upcoming Transit Operating Budgets.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to apply to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Integrated Mobility Division for the FY 2022-23 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funds, which are used to fund a portion of the existing Transit Planning Division personnel budget, and if successful, to accept the grant funds, and sign all the appropriate agreements, and include the revenue in future fiscal year budgets.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22 -_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FUND THE TRANSIT PLANNING PROGRAM, SECTION 5303 METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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

WHEREAS, funds for Fiscal Year 2022-23 are available from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT) through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has received financial assistance in the amount of $223,082 from the Federal Transit Administration for the cost of transit planning and $27,885 from the NCDOT; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville will comply with all applicable Federal and State requirements in accepting the grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville will provide a 10% local match in the amount of $27,885 which will be budgeted in the Transit Services Fund budget;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for and accept a grant from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation to fund the transit planning program, Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program of the Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and to execute any and all documents necessary to give effect to this action.

Read, approved, and adopted this 25th day of January 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney