THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

Subject: Authorization to Apply for and Submit Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Section 5310, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Section 5310, and JARC (Section 5307) Funds Grant Applications.

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit grant applications in response to the annual Call for Projects issued by the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for the FY 2021 Section 5310 and JARC (Section 5307) Funds, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal and State agencies, and to include the revenue in the FY 22-23 Budget.

Background:

- On September 27, 2021, FBRMPO issued a Call for Projects for the Federal Transit Administration FY 2021 Section 5310 and JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) Funds soliciting proposals.
- The deadline for the grant application is November 19, 2021.
- The Section 5310 Funding program is used for improving mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services provided in the City of Asheville.
- The City uses 5310 funds to pay for a portion of the City's existing paratransit service.
- The total amount of funding available from FY 2021 5310 funds is $318,850.
- The City expects to apply for $210,000 which is the maximum allowed under the program.
- The match for 5310 funds is 20%.
- The 5307 JARC Funds will be used to fund a portion of the operating costs of Route 170, which operates fixed-route service from downtown Asheville to Black Mountain.
- The total amount of funding available from FY21 5307 JARC funds is $343,962 and the City expects to apply for $231,558, which is 50% of the total cost to operate Route 170.
- The match for JARC funds is 50%.
- In addition to the regular 5310, Section 5310 funds apportioned under the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to the Asheville Urbanized Area have also been included in the Fall 2021 FBRMPO Call for Projects.
- The total ARPA 5310 funds available to the Asheville Urbanized Area is $54,139 with no local match required.
- It is expected that the FBRMPO will award these funds to a subrecipient that is not awarded regular 5310 or JARC funding, such as Haywood County.
- The City is the designated recipient for the region and administers transit grants after they are awarded to subrecipients by the FBRMPO.
- The City will receive a 10% administrative fee for the regular 5310 funding program, and will also receive a 10% administrative fee from the FY 21 ARPA 5310 funding program, for a total of $41,443.
- These regular 5310 and JARC funds are annual recurring funds that are used to fund existing paratransit service and the Route 170 to Black Mountain; however, the ARPA 5310 fund is a one-time allocation and is part of the federal funds apportioned to public transportation systems to support and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.
- ARPA provides 100% of the funding with no local match required.
- The City will receive $41,443 for oversight and administrative cost which does not require a local match.
- Of this amount, $35,428 will be used for the administrative cost for the regular Section 5310 program, with the remaining amount of $6,015 to be used for administering the ARPA 5310 fund 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 JARC grant program.

Fiscal Impact:

- The local match will be included in the proposed FY 22-23 operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for:

    a. FY 2021 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 22-23 Budget.

    b. FY 2021 Section 5307 JARC Funds in the amount of $231,558, 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 22-23 Budget.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION 21-

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 2021 SECTION 5310, ARPA 5310, AND 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 2021 Section 5310, ARPA Section 5310, and 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 FTA will reimburse grant applicants for up to 100% of operating expenses with ARPA funding; 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 2021 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 22-23 Budget.

b. FY 2021 Section 5307 JARC Funds in the amount of $231,558, 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 22-23 Budget.

Read, approved, and adopted this 9th day of November 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney