THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: October 12, 2021

Subject: Transit Planning Division Apprenticeship Grant Program

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, Transportation Director; and Jessica Morriss, Assistant Transportation Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Apprenticeship Grant Program for Public Transit and if awarded, authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with NCDOT to fund the 10% match for the program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023.

Background:

- The NCDOT funds and manages an annual program that places recent university graduates with an interest in public transit within a city/transit agency for 1 year as a full-time, paid staff member.
- The City must apply for the program by November 1, 2021 to potentially be approved as a participant.
- If approved, NCDOT provides 90% of the funding for the salary and benefits of the apprentice; the City Transit Operations Fund would provide the remaining 10%.
- State costs would amount to $45,234.90.
- Local costs would amount to $5,026.10.
- The City has participated in this program annually for the last several years (except FY 21/22 as the program was not included in the State budget).
- The transit apprentice would work within the Transit Planning Division of the Transportation Department and would assist the division with ongoing work program items related to transit service.
- The apprentice is also required by the NCDOT to prepare a research report at the end of the apprenticeship.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- 90% of apprentice costs are covered by NCDOT.
- Assistance to Transit Planning Division to assist in transit-related projects that serve the City of Asheville and the surrounding community.
- Assistance will include continued implementation of the Transit Master Plan (2018).

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Local cost of $5,026.10 which would be budgeted in the Transit Operations Fund for fiscal year 2022-23.

Suggested Motion:

- Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Apprenticeship Grant Program for Public Transit and if awarded, authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with NCDOT to fund the 10% match for the program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT) APPRENTICESHIP GRANT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT AND IF AWARDED, AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NCDOT TO FUND THE 10% MATCH FOR THE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022-2023.

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

WHEREAS, the funds for the program for FY 22-23 are available from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT); and

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

WHEREAS, the NCDOT will provide a 90% of the funds needed for the Apprentice and the City will provide 10% of the funds, budgeted in the Transit Operations Fund;

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

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to apply for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Apprenticeship Grant Program for Public Transit and if awarded, authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with NCDOT to fund the 10% match for the program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023.

Read, approved and adopted this the 12th day of October, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney