THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

Subject: Adopt the Transportation Corridor Studies for Hendersonville Road, Tunnel Road and Biltmore Avenue/McDowell Street as amendments to the Asheville In Motion Mobility Plan

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, Transportation Department Director
Todd Okolichany, Planning and Urban Design Director
Stacy Merten, Long-Range Planning Manager
Jessica Morriss, Assistant Transportation Director

Action Requested: Adoption of resolutions adopting the Transportation Corridor Studies for Hendersonville Road, Tunnel Road, and Biltmore Avenue/McDowell Street as amendments to the Asheville in Motion Mobility Plan.

Background:

- The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the recipient of federal transportation planning funds.
- The MPO is staffed by the Land of Sky Regional Council.
- In addition to regular transportation planning activities, the MPO recently funded three corridor studies in Asheville.
- The studies take an in-depth look at development trends, travel patterns and other plans and goals to evaluate and consider future multimodal transportation improvements.
- For all three studies, consultants were hired through a competitive process to conduct the work.
- Two of the studies, Hendersonville Road and Tunnel Road, were managed by MPO staff.
- The Biltmore Avenue/McDowell Street study was managed by City staff.
- All three studies had multiple public input opportunities through virtual public meetings, surveys, stakeholder meetings, and other outreach.
- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) staff also participated in the development of all three studies, as the agency is responsible for operating and maintaining the corridors.
- Each study contains a range of recommended short and long-term projects aimed at:
    - supporting the City's land-use objectives,
    - improving multimodal transportation,
    - improving safety,
    - calming traffic,
    - increasing connectivity, and
    - enhancing transit.
- The studies themselves do not commit the City in any way, financially or otherwise, to implement the recommendations contained within each study.
- The purpose of the studies is to provide a vision for:
    - "positive change" for each corridor,
    - explore potential transportation solutions and costs, and
    - to document public and stakeholder input.
- Adoption of the documents as amendments to the 2016 Asheville In Motion (AIM) Mobility Plan ensures that the AIM Plan remains a current and relevant living document.

- Adoption also ensures that these documents are referred to and incorporated into future corridor projects undertaken by NCDOT, as required by the NCDOT's Complete Streets Policy, as well as ensuring that they are referenced for City CIP projects, and private-development applications.
- Links to corridor study reports:
    - Hendersonville Road - From Rock Hill Road to Airport Road
    - Tunnel Road and South Tunnel Road - From Beaucatcher Tunnel to Swannanoa River Road
    - Biltmore Avenue/McDowell Street - From Hilliard Ave. to All Souls Crescent

Council Goal(s):
- Well-planned and livable community
- Transportation and accessibility

Other Committee(s):
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force - May 20, 2021 - No formal action taken
- Planning and Zoning Commission - September 1, 2021; Vote in favor of endorsing the studies and advancing to City Council
  Multimodal Transportation Commission - June 23, 2021 (Biltmore/McDowell); August 25, 2021 (Hendersonville Road and Tunnel Road) - No formal actions taken

Pro(s):
- Aligns with other policies and plans such as the Complete Streets Policy, Pedestrian Plan, Bicycle Plan, and the Living Asheville Comprehensive Plan.
- Provides a vision and recommended improvements for each corridor to be considered as in planning future projects.

Con(s):
- As planning-level studies, the recommendations for corridor improvements within the plans should be considered as guides for future projects and not considered as exact designs that will be implemented as shown.

Fiscal Impact:
- There are no fiscal impacts associated with these actions.
- There are currently no funds programmed by any agency to implement the recommended improvements.

Suggested Motions:
- Motion to adopt a resolution adopting the Transportation Corridor Study for Hendersonville Road as an amendment to the Asheville in Motion Mobility Plan.
- Motion to adopt a resolution adopting the Transportation Corridor Study for Tunnel Road as an amendment to the Asheville in Motion Mobility Plan.
- Motion to adopt a resolution adopting the Transportation Corridor Study for Biltmore/McDowell Street as an amendment to the Asheville in Motion Mobility Plan.

Attachment(s)
- Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HENDERSONVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE ASHEVILLE IN MOTION MOBILITY PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville works with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) in partnership to conduct multi-modal transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the City worked with the FBRMPO to conduct a corridor study for Hendersonville Road from Rockhill Road to Airport Road; and

WHEREAS, the Hendersonville Road Corridor Study presents a range of recommendations to improve transportation options for all users; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations in the study advance the City goals in the areas of Transportation and Accessibility and a Well Planned and Livable Community; and

WHEREAS, the Asheville in Motion Mobility Plan was adopted by the Council in 2016 and represents a multimodal transportation vision for the City of Asheville;

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

The City adopts the Hendersonville Road Corridor Study as an amendment to the Asheville In Motion Mobility Plan of the City of Asheville.

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

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TUNNEL ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE ASHEVILLE IN MOTION MOBILITY PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville works with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) in partnership to conduct multi-modal transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the City worked with the FBRMPO to conduct a corridor study for Tunnel Road from Beaucatcher Tunnel to Swannanoa River Road; and

WHEREAS, the Tunnel Road Corridor Study presents a range of recommendations to improve transportation options for all users; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations in the study advance the City goals in the areas of Transportation and Accessibility and a Well Planned and Livable Community; and

WHEREAS, the Asheville in Motion Mobility Plan was adopted by the Council in 2016 and represents a multimodal transportation vision for the City of Asheville;

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

The City adopts the Tunnel Road Corridor Study as an amendment to the Asheville In Motion Mobility Plan of the City of Asheville.

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

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BILTMORE AVE. AND MCDOWELL ST. CORRIDOR STUDY AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE ASHEVILLE IN MOTION MOBILITY PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville works with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) in partnership to conduct multi-modal transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the City worked with the FBRMPO to conduct a corridor study for Biltmore Ave. and McDowell St. from Hilliard Ave. to All Souls Crescent; and

WHEREAS, the Biltmore Ave. and McDowell St. Corridor Study presents a range of recommendations to improve transportation options for all users; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations in the study advance the City goals in the areas of Transportation and Accessibility and a Well Planned and Livable Community; and

WHEREAS, the Asheville in Motion Mobility Plan was adopted by the Council in 2016 and represents a multimodal transportation vision for the City of Asheville;

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

The City adopts the Biltmore Avenue/McDowell Street Corridor Study as an amendment to the Asheville In Motion Mobility Plan of the City of Asheville.

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

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney