THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 9, 2021

Subject: Amendment to COVID-19 Supplemental Transit Operations Support Contract

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve an amendment to the COVID-19 Supplemental Transit Operations Contract with Young Transportation to increase the contract by an additional $480,000 raising the contract total to $2,002,000 and to extend the contract through June 30, 2021.

Background:

- Asheville Rides Transit (ART) service continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 event.
- Capacity limitations on buses, in place since March 2020, and occasional driver shortages from COVID-19, have resulted in routes being suspended and/or passengers being left behind.
- During July 2020, the City contracted with Young Transportation Inc. for $962,000 to assist ART by providing supplemental transit operations on the highest ridership routes and by filling in for drivers impacted by COVID-19.
- During October 2020, the City amended the contract with Young to add $560,000 to the contract and extend the term to March 31, 2021.
- During April 2020, $3.668 million in CARES Act funds were allocated to the City to assist with transit operations.
- These funds have been used to fund the contract with Young Transportation, provide additional cleaning and personal protective equipment, provide bus barrier doors, provide a one-time bonus for front-line/on-site ART staff, provide administrative leave for ART staff impacted by COVID-19, and to cover fare loss and the loss of state transit funds (SMAP).
- All of the CARES Act funds have been expended.
- The paratransit budget for the current fiscal year was approved at $1.7 million; however, paratransit service has decreased substantially due to the COVID-19 event so the expected cost for paratransit this fiscal year is estimated to be between $675,000 and $725,000.
- The anticipated savings in the paratransit budget could be used to offset the cost of the current amendment.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility.

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Continue providing supplemental transit service through the end of the current fiscal year.
- Able to provide increased passenger capacity.
- Able to “fill-in” when ART drivers are sick.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Until this time, the City has used CARES Act funds to fund the Young Transportation contract, however CARES Act funds have been depleted.
- Savings from the paratransit budget are proposed to be used to fund the additional Young Transportation service.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve an amendment to the COVID-19 Supplemental Transit Operations Contract with Young Transportation to increase the contract by an additional $480,000 to bring the contract total from $1,522,000 to $2,002,000, and to extend the contract through June 30, 2021.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSIT OPERATIONS CONTRACT WITH YOUNG TRANSPORTATION AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143 -129 for letting of public contracts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville issued a competitive request for proposals for the purpose of providing supplemental transit operations services in an effort to partially restore service reduced; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville awarded the contract to Young Transportation to provide daily supplemental transit operations services for the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the City has since provided $1,522,000 to Young Transportation to provide supplemental transit operations service in the City of Asheville's service area;

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

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve an amendment to the COVID-19 Supplemental Transit Operations Contract with Young Transportation to increase the contract by an additional $480,000 to bring the contract total from $1,522,000 to $2,002,000, and to extend the contract through June 30, 2021.

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

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney