THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

Subject: Authorization to apply for and submit Fiscal Year 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Section 5310.

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

Action Requested: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the FY 2021 CRRSAA (Section 5310) grant funds, and to sign all appropriate agreements with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal and State agencies, execute a subrecipient agreement with Mountain Projects, Inc., and approve a budget amendment in the Transit Multi-Year and Transit Operating Funds in the amount of $60,153 to budget the grant funds.

Background:

- On December 27, 2020, the Fiscal Year 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was signed into law.
- On January 11, 2021, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced availability of $14 billion in transit-related funds apportioned to the transit industry under CRRSAA to be distributed as follows:
    - $13.26 billion for urbanized areas (Section 5307 formula grant funds)
    - $678.2 million for rural areas and tribes (Section 5311 formula grant funds)
    - $50 million for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310 formula grant funds)
- Based on the funds apportioned to transit systems, the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA) received $60,153 in Section 5310 formula grant funds.
- No Section 5307 funds were provided to the AUZA with the CRRSAA relief supplemental funds. This is not part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding which was signed into Law on March 11, 2021.
- At the French Broad River MPO (FBRMPO) quarterly Transit Operators' meeting in fall 2020, transit agency members agreed that the CRRSAA Section 5310 funds should be added to the regular annual Section 5310 Call for Projects (FY 2020), and that the funds should be awarded to only one transit operator rather than splitting it among several transit systems in the Asheville Urbanized Area.
- Based on the results of the annual Section 5310 call for projects, Mountain Projects, Inc., which provides fixed-route and paratransit services in Haywood County, was allocated $54,138 out of the available CRRSAA Section 5310 funds of the $60,153 provided by the FRBMPO. The City of Asheville was allocated $6,015 (10%) for program support and administration.
- Similar to the FY 2020 CARES Act, CRRSAA funds will provide 100% of the Federal match of the anticipated funding and do not require any local match.
- City of Asheville Transportation Department staff will be working with Mountain Projects, Inc. on using the funds allocated to the agency and will submit an application to the FTA in the amount of $60,153 by April 30, 2021 for technical review and approval.
- City of Asheville Transportation Department staff is recommending approval of the FY 2021 CRRSAA Subrecipient and Suballocation Agreement to be executed between the City of Asheville and Mountain Projects, Inc.

- On March 16, 2021, the City of Asheville Transportation Department staff submitted the required Federal Split Letter to the FTA Region VI Office outlining the MPO-approved allocation of CRRSAA funds.

FBRMPO ALLOCATED FY2021 CRRSAA (SECTION 5310) FUNDS		
	PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION/ PERCENT	**ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION/ AMOUNT**
CIty of Asheville	**10%**	**$6,015**
Mountain Projects, Inc.	**90%**	**$54,138**
	TOTAL	**$60,153**

Council Goal(s):
- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):
- None.

Pro(s):
- CRRSAA funds will enable Mountain Projects, Inc. to use federal funds to help offset operational expenses incurred on or after January 20, 2020 in response to economic or other conditions caused by COVID-19.

Con(s):
- None.

Fiscal Impact:
- CRRSAA provides 100% of the funding with no local match required.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the FY 2021 CRRSAA (Section 5310) grant funds, and to sign all appropriate agreements with the FTA, Federal and State agencies, execute a subrecipient agreement with Mountain Projects, Inc., and a budget amendment in the Transit Multi-Year and Transit Operating Funds in the amount of $60,153 to budget the grant funds.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 21-

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE FY 2021 CRRSAA (SECTION 5310) GRANT FUNDS, AND TO SIGN ALL APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES, EXECUTE A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH MOUNTAIN PROJECTS, INC., AND TO INCLUDE CRRSAA REVENUE IN THE FY 2021 TRANSIT OPERATING AND MULTI-YEAR FUND BUDGETS.

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 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced Notice for Supplemental FY 2021 Section 5310 under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) for funding transit operations that help transit systems to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board has reviewed the recommendations provided by the Transit Operators who are recipients of Section 5310 FTA Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Transit Formula funds including the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, Haywood County, and Henderson County, who convened and discussed CRRSAA funding on November 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the 5310 FTA Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Transit Formula funds to the Asheville UZA through the CRRSAA will be distributed to subrecipients via subrecipient agreements, based on the Adopted French Broad River MPO 5310 annual Call for Projects Suballocation Procedure on November 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the FTA will reimburse grant applicants for up to 100% of operating expenses with CRRSAA funding; and

WHEREAS, there is no local match required under the CRRSAA funds;

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

The City Manager is authorized to apply for the FY 2021 CRRSAA (Section 5310) grant funds, and to sign all appropriate agreements with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal and State agencies, execute a subrecipient agreement with Mountain Projects, Inc., and to include the CRRSAA CARES revenue in the FY 2021 Transit budget.

Read, approved and adopted this 13th day of April, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That the City of Asheville Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Ordinance be amended to include CRRSAA revenue in the Transit Operations and Multi-Year Fund budgets, as follows:

TRANSIT FUND

Revenues:

Restricted Intergovernmental Federal Grants	$6,015
Total Revenues	$6,015

Appropriations:

Personnel Expenses	$6,015
Total Appropriations	$6,015

TRANSIT MULTI-YEAR FUND

Revenues:

Restricted Intergovernmental Federal Grants	$54,138
Total Revenues	$54,138

Appropriations:

Transit Pass Through Grant	$54,138
Total Appropriations	$54,138

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 13th day of April, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney