THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: January 26, 2021

Subject: Grant Application for Reed Creek Feasibility Study

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Lucy Crown, AICP, Greenway Planner

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for a transportation planning grant in the amount of $40,000 from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for the purpose of preparing a feasibility study for the Reed Creek Greenway; and if awarded, to accept the funds and sign all of the necessary agreements, and budget the funds in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Transportation Department operating budget.

Background:

- The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) published a competitive grant opportunity during late October 2020 for transportation planning grants.
- The grant opportunity provides a total of $200,000 in funding for member organizations to complete a short-term planning or feasibility study with a focus on improving transportation facilities in or throughout the region.
- Applications were due on December 30, 2020.
- City staff determined that the completion of a feasibility study for the next two sections of the Reed Creek Greenway would be a good candidate.
    a. First section - Elizabeth Street to the I-240 pedestrian bridge at Hill Street near Isaac Dickson Elementary School.
    b. Second section - W.T. Weaver Boulevard to the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Riverside Drive near UNCA.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None.

Pro(s):

- Provide funding support to complete the next step in the process toward construction of the final two sections of the Reed Creek Greenway.
- Provide preferred alignments, construction feasibility information, and cost estimates.

Con(s):

- None.

Fiscal Impact:

- A 20% local match is required if awarded. The total project cost is expected to be approximately $50,000, therefore the City's match would be $10,000 if awarded.
- If awarded, the money for the required match of $10,000 would be included in the FY 22 Budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for a transportation planning grant in the amount of $40,000 from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for the purpose of preparing a feasibility study for the Reed Creek Greenway, and if awarded, to accept the funds and sign all of the necessary agreements, and budget the funds in the FY 2021-22 Transportation Department operating budget.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Map

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT FROM THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE REED CREEK GREENWAY, AND IF AWARDED, TO ACCEPT THE FUNDS AND SIGN ALL OF THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS, AND BUDGEt THE FUNDS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS; the City is authorized to make contracts for and to accept grants from the federal and state governments and their agencies for constructing, expanding, maintaining and operating any project or performing any function which the City may be authorized by law to provide or perform; and

WHEREAS; the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) had a call for qualified projects seeking funding support through United Planning Work Program funds: and;

WHEREAS; the City of Asheville has identified the Reed Creek Greenway Project as eligible for this funding; and

WHEREAS; the Reed Creek is a prioritized project of the Asheville Greenway Committee: and

WHEREAS; if the project is funded, ,agreements will be executed between the City of Asheville and granting and administering agencies prior to receipt of the grant;

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

The City Manager is authorized to apply for a transportation planning grant in the amount of $40,000 from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for the purpose of preparing a feasibility study for the Reed Creek Greenway, and if awarded, to accept the funds and sign all of the necessary agreements, and budget the funds in the FY 2021-22 Transportation Department operating budget.

Read, approved and adopted this the 26th day of January, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney