THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: October 13, 2020

Subject: Budget amendment for Transit, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339(b) Program

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a budget amendment in the amount of $1,250,000, which includes $1.0 million from the FTA Section 5339(b) Discretionary Grant Fund Program for bus stop improvements and a $250,000 local match.

Background:

- On March 24, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 20-137 authorizing the City Manager to apply for, and accept if awarded, grant funding from the FTA FY2020 Buses and Bus Facilities discretionary grant program.
- The City applied for, and was awarded $1 million, in grant funds for the purpose of improving bus stops in the service area.
- Improvements will be prioritized at high-ridership stops and stops serving vulnerable communities. Improvements might include bus shelters, benches, solar lighting, and ADA accessibility improvements.
- The local match for the grant award will come from multiple sources, including remaining City approved General Obligation (GO) Bond funds for bus stop improvements ($62,000), unspent funds provided via development project conditional approvals ($40,000), and previously budgeted funding in the Transit Capital Fund ($148,000).
- Staff is also expecting to receive donations from partner associations; these donations would be used to lower the required contribution from the Transit Capital Fund.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Project funding is provided by the FTA and will help support improvements of transit amenities in the service area.

Con(s):

- The grant requires a 20% local match for the acquisition and installation of transit amenities, and a 10% match for ADA accessibility improvements.

Fiscal Impact:

- As noted above, there is a required local match of 20% and 10% depending on the specific types of improvements implemented. The maximum required local match is $250,000. The sources for the local match are discussed above.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a budget amendment in the amount of $1,250,000 million, which includes $1.0 million from the FTA Section 5339(b) Discretionary Grant Fund Program for bus stop improvements and a $250,000 local match.

Attachment(s):

- Budget Amendment

ORDINANCE NO _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

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

That the City of Asheville Fiscal Year 2020-21 Transit Capital Projects Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $1,250,000 in the Transit Capital Projects Budget to budget Section 5339(b) grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration and to fund transit capital projects as follows:

TRANSIT CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND:

Restricted Intergovernmental Federal Grants	$1,000,000.00
Private Donations	$40,000.00
Project Transfer from GO Bonds	$62,000.00
Project Transfer from Transit Capital	$148,000.00
Total Revenues	$1,250,000.00
Appropriations:	
Contracted Services	$1,250,000.00
Total Appropriations:	$1,250,000.00

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

Read, approved and adopted this 13th day of October, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney