THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: December 8, 2020

Subject: Annual recurring Fiscal Year 2020 Section 5310 and Job Access Reverse Commute (Section 5307) Federal Transit grant funds

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit applications to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Section 5310 and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) (Section 5307) Funds, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal and State agencies, and to include the revenue and the City match in the FY 21-22 Budget.

Background:

- On November 20, 2020, FBRMPO issued a call for projects for the Federal Transit Administration annual recurring Section 5310 and JARC (Section 5307) grant funds.
- The deadline to submit both grants is December 31, 2020.
- Section 5310 funding is used for improving mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- The City uses Section 5310 funds to pay for a portion of the City's existing paratransit service.
- The City is going to apply for $166,832 in Federal funds.
- The match for these funds is 20%, or $41,708, for a total project cost of $208,540.
- JARC (Section 5307) funds are used to fund a portion of the operating costs of Route 170, which operates fixed-route service from downtown Asheville to the Town of Black Mountain.
- The City is going to apply for $231,558 in Federal funds, which is 50% of the total cost to operate Route 170.
- The match for JARC funds is 50%, so the City's contribution to the total cost is also $231,558.
- The City is the designated recipient for the region and oversees and administers the grants after they are awarded to subrecipients by the FBRMPO.
- The City receives a 10% administrative fee for this effort.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None.

Pro(s):

- The funds help offset the annual operating cost of paratransit and Route 170 fixed-route services.
- The City receives 10% in administrative fees to oversee both programs.

Con(s):

- The City is responsible for the local matches.
- If funds are not awarded, it will significantly impact funding for transit operations and affect the quality of services provided.

Fiscal Impact:

- The local match will be included in the proposed FY 21-22 operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for:

    - FY 2020 Section 5310 funds in the amount of $166,832, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal, and/or State agencies, and to include the revenue and the City match in the FY21-22 Proposed Budget.

    - FY 2020 JARC (Section 5307) funds in the amount of $231,558, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal, and/or State agencies, and to include the revenue and the City match in the FY21-22 Proposed Budget.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION 20-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR PROJECTS ISSUED BY THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND TO APPLY TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 SECTION 5310 AND JARC GRANT PROGRAMS, AND IF SUCCESSFUL,TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS NEEDED TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE SAID FUNDS

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 French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) has announced a Call for Projects for the Federal Transit Administration Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Section 5310 and JARC Grant Programs; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified projects that would be eligible for these funding programs and would help fund the operating cost of paratransit and Route 170 fixed-route services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration will reimburse grant applicants for up to 50 percent of JARC operating costs and 80 percent of 5310 projects implemented with these funding programs; and

WHEREAS, the local match would come from the City of Asheville Transit Operating budget;

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

City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit grant applications to FBRMPO, to apply to the Federal Transit Administration for:

- FY 2020 Section 5310 funds in the amount of $166,832, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal, and/or State agencies, and to include the revenue and the City match in the Proposed FY21-22 Budget.

- FY 2020 JARC (Section 5307) funds in the amount of $231,558, and if successful, to accept the grant funds and sign all the appropriate agreements with the FBRMPO, Federal, and/or State agencies, and to include the revenue and the City match in the FY21-22 Proposed Budget.

Read, approved and adopted this 8th day of December, 2020.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney