THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: May 12, 2020

Subject: Purchase and install safety protection barriers in the Transit Buses

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase and install safety protection barriers in existing transit vehicles including eighteen (18) Gillig buses, five (5) Proterra electric buses, and four (4) Vicinity buses for a total of twenty-seven (27) buses at a total estimated cost not to exceed $500,000; and a budget amendment in the Transit Capital Projects Fund in the amount of $500,000 from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) CARES Act funds to fund the purchases. In addition, the authorization includes the following tasks:

1. Execute a purchase order of approximately $160,000 to work with Gillig to engineer, design, retrofit and install the safety protection barriers in the eighteen (18) existing 30-foot diesel and diesel electric hybrid Gillig buses.

2. Execute a purchase order of approximately $140,000 to work with Proterra to engineer, design, retrofit, and install the safety protection barriers in the five (5) 35-foot electric buses;

3. Execute a change order to the existing City of Asheville/City of Oxford, Mississippi Contract No. 500350, not to exceed $100,000, in order to engineer, design, and install safety protection barriers, to the four (4) Grande West Vicinity buses previously purchased, prior to completing the bus build and delivering them to Asheville Rides Transit System; and

4. Execute a purchase order of approximately $100,000, to work with AROW Global Corporation, the manufacturer of the safety protection barriers, and/or selected vendor to provide assistance and oversight of the installation of the safety protection barriers in the identified transit buses.

5. Approve a sole source justification to procure the transit barriers from Gillig, Proterra and Vicinity bus manufacturers due to the configuration and specification of each of the buses to be retrofitted with the safety barriers.

Background:

- During February 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners, including the United States Department of Transportation, issued guidance to the public transportation industry in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- During March 2020, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a Notice of Funding Availability for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which is intended to provide additional supplemental funding to transit systems to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
- On April 9, 2020, the FTA announced availability of $25 billion apportioned to the transit industry under the CARES Act and the Asheville Urbanized Area (UZA) would receive about $8.6 million.
- The FTA announced that the CARES Act funds are to be used for transit operating and capital expenses, and would consider all expenses incurred on or after January 20, 2020 in response to economic or other conditions caused by COVID-19.

- Transportation Department staff are working with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), as well as Buncombe, Haywood and Henderson Counties to allocate the CARES Act funding to eligible transit systems in the Asheville UZA.
- Transportation Department staff would work with the various bus manufacturers to engineer, design and retrofit existing buses in the fleet with safety protection barriers to protect ART drivers from assault and in emergency situations such as COVID-19.
- The total number of vehicles in the fleet to be retrofitted are 27, including 18 Gillig, 5 Proterra electric, and 4 Vicinity buses.
- Final design would include a sliding glass barrier in the driver's sitting area allowing face-to-face interaction with passengers without obstruction.
- Transportation Department staff recommends using CARES Act funds to purchase and install the safety barriers.
- CARES Act funds provide 100% of the Federal match of the anticipated funding and does not require any local match.
- Transportation Department staff will allocate the CARES Act funds to the Transit Capital Projects fund once received from the FTA.

Council Goal(s):
- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):
- None

Pro(s):
- CARES Act funding provides 100% of the funds for the project.
- No local match is required.
- Provides protection for the bus drivers.

Con(s):
- None

Fiscal Impact:
- As noted above, the CARES Act provides 100% of the funding with no local match required.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase and install safety protection barriers in existing transit vehicles including eighteen (18) Gillig buses, five (5) Proterra electric buses, and four (4) Vicinity buses for a total of twenty-seven (27) buses at a total estimated cost not to exceed $500,000; and a budget amendment in the Transit Capital Projects Fund in the amount of $500,000 from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) CARES Act funds to fund the purchases.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution
- Budget Ordinance Amendment

RESOLUTION 20-

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE SAFETY PROTECTION BARRIERS FOR INSTALLATION IN ASHEVILLE RIDES TRANSIT VEHICLES IN THE FLEET

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 2020 5307 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for funding transit operations and capital projects that helps transit systems to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified projects that would be eligible for this funding program that would fund related transit operations and capital projects activities responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the FTA will reimburse grant applicants for up to 100 percent of transit operations and capital cost of projects implemented with this funding program; and

WHEREAS, the FTA has indicated that no local match would be needed for projects related to COVID-19;

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

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to purchase and install safety protection barriers in existing transit vehicles including eighteen (18) Gillig buses, five (5) Proterra electric buses, and four (4) Vicinity buses for a total of twenty-seven (27) buses at a total estimated cost not to exceed $500,000.

Read, approved and adopted this 12th day of May, 2020.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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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 2019-20 Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $500,000 as a grant from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) CARES Act funds as follows:

TRANSIT CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Revenues:

CARES Act Revenue	$500,000.00
Total Revenues	$500,000.00

Appropriations:

Machinery & Equipment	$500,000.00
Total Appropriations	$500,000.00

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

Read, approved and adopted this 12th day of May, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney