THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: April 14, 2020

Subject: Authorization to submit grant applications for multimodal transportation improvements.

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Jessica Morriss, Assistant Transportation Department Director
Dan Baechtold, Transportation Planner

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for, and if awarded, accept funding from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 through FY 2026 for approximately $21,000,000 in transportation funding and expressing support for projects submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division 13.

Background:

- In January 2020, the FBRMPO issued a call for projects as part of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG-DA) and Transportation Alternatives (TAP-DA) programs. These federal funds are awarded on a competitive basis through a call for projects that is typically held every two years. In this funding cycle, the FBRMPO is awarding five years worth of funding instead of two.
- The total available amount of funding in this grant cycle for the three-county FBRMPO area is $28.2 M and will be available in FY 2022 through FY 2026. The grant requires a minimum 20% local match.
- The call for projects is open to local governments in the FBRMPO area which includes the counties of Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood, and Madison. In addition, the NCDOT Division 13 and 14 Offices may apply for the funds with the support of the affected jurisdiction.
- The City proposes to apply for approximately $21 M in grant funds for six multimodal projects.
- The projects that are proposed are priority projects that have not yet been funded through the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (except for limited funding for the Hazel Mill Sidewalk project). Additionally, several of the projects were chosen because they have a higher potential for partnership funding, such as from the Tourism Development Authority (TDA), which would reduce or eliminate providing the local match from the City's budget.
- Additionally, NCDOT plans to apply for four projects within the City of Asheville and has requested City support/concurrence with their proposed projects. All of NCDOT's suggested projects focus on pedestrian safety improvements. If NCDOT projects are awarded, the City would not be responsible for funding the match.
- City staff and NCDOT Division 13 intend to apply for grants for the projects listed below. The projects are not in priority order. The scoring matrix used by the MPO prioritizes all the projects. The City is responsible for submitting projects that we support that best meets the scoring matrix and has the best potential of being funded.
- The projects will be scored by the FBRMPO. The City's prioritization of the projects does not affect the outcome of the selected projects. The MPO's matrix determines which projects are selected.

City of Asheville Proposed Projects

Project Name	Requesting Agency	Proposed Federal Ask	COA Match	Total Project Cost
Coxe Avenue Complete Street	COA	$9,040,000	$2,260,000	$11,300,000

Haywood St./Page Ave./Flint Street Improvements	COA	$6,800,000	$1,700,000	$8,500,000
North RADTIP Greenway (Hill St. to Pearson Bridge Rd)	COA	$2,560,000	$640,000	$3,200,000
Hazel Mill Rd. Sidewalk	COA	$1,600,000	$400,000	$2,000,000
Pedestrian and School Zone Improvements	COA	$660,000	$165,000	$825,000
Lee Walker Heights at Biltmore Ave. Traffic Signal	COA	$352,000	$88,000	$440,000
COA Requests Total		**$21,012,000**	**$5,253,000**	**$26,265,000**

NCDOT Proposed Projects

Project Name	Requesting Agency	Proposed Federal Ask	COA Match	Total Project Cost
Haywood Rd. Upgrades (pedestrian improvements, resurfacing, lighting)	NCDOT	$7,775,000	$0	$9,723,624
Charlotte St./I-240 Interchange (pedestrian improvements)	NCDOT	$628,250	$0	$1,378,250
NC112/Sandhill Rd. Intersection (turn lane and pedestrian improvements)	NCDOT	$336,000	$0	$421,000
Broadway Sidewalk (existing to Riverside Dr.)	NCDOT	$310,000	$0	$488,959
NCDOT Requests Total		**$9,049,250**	**$0**	**$12,011,833**

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- If awarded, these projects represent a significant investment in multimodal transportation infrastructure over a five-year period.
- All of the proposed projects are identified capital needs that align with city goals.
- Several of the projects present an opportunity for partnership with the TDA.

Con(s):

- Depending on which, if any, of the City's proposed projects are awarded, the maximum total matching funds that would need to be programmed in the City's CIP in FY 2022 to FY 2026 would be $5,253,000. This represents a 20% match.

Fiscal Impact:

- The total required local match is $5,253,000 over a five year period (if all projects were awarded). Except for the potential match for the Hazel Mill Road sidewalk project, none of the funding for the other matches is currently included in the City's five-year CIP cash flow model. There may be an opportunity to leverage additional funding from outside organizations to contribute to the local

match, however additional City resources may need to be dedicated to the CIP during upcoming budgets in order to fund the City match.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and, if awarded, accept funding from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for FY 2022 through FY 2026 for approximately $21,000,000 in transportation funding and expressing support for projects submitted by NCDOT Division 13.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER MPO (MPO) FOR FUNDING FOR FY 2022 THROUGH FY 2026 FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS AND ACCEPT SUCH GRANTS AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS; AND TO SUPPORT NCDOT GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

WHEREAS, the City has the authority, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-17.1, to apply for and receive grants from other governmental entities and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization is soliciting requests for transportation capital projects and is currently providing competitive funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has identified several multimodal transportation improvements that are eligible for these funds; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, funding agreements will be executed between the City and the granting and administering agencies prior to receipt of the grant; and

WHEREAS, the required local match will need to be programmed in the city budget in the years FY 2022 to FY 2026; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT Division 13 also intends to submit applications for several projects of benefit to the City of Asheville;

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

1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for approximately $21,000,000 in FY 2022 to FY 2026 funding from the French Broad River MPO for transportation capital projects with a total cost of approximately $26,000,000.

2. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute agreements between granting or administering agencies and the City to accept the grant.

3. The City of Asheville supports several grant applications by the NCDOT Division 13 for transportation improvements within the City of Asheville.

Read, approved and adopted this 14th day of April, 2020.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney