THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

**STAFF REPORT**

**Council Meeting Date:** February 11, 2020

**Subject:** Fiscal Year 2020-21 Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Grant

**Staff Resource(s):** Ken Putnam, PE., Transportation Department Director;
Jessica Morriss, AICP, Assistant Transportation Department Director

**Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Public Transportation Division for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funds, which are used on a recurring basis to fund a portion of the existing Transit Planning Division personnel budget, and if successful, to accept the grant funds, and sign all the appropriate agreements, and include the revenue in the FY 2020-21 Budget.

**Background**:

- FTA Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program provides recurring funding for transit planning activities, including personnel.
- The City applied for and receives Section 5303 funding on a recurring basis. These funds are programmed annually to supplement a portion of existing transit division planning staff wages. The City receives $60,000 (80%) from FTA, and the City and NCDOT provide $7,500 each in matching funds (20%). Without these funds, the general fund would need to provide additional funding for transit personnel.
- Staff have applied for these funds since the application deadline was February 7, 2020 .
- If for some reason the Council does not authorize the application on February 11, 2020, staff will withdraw it.
- If awarded, staff will budget the funding in the proposed FY 20-21 transit administration budget to fund personnel.

**Council Goal(s):**

- Transportation and Accessibility

**Committee(s)**:

- None

**Pro(s):**

- Supplements funding for multiple transit planning positions.
- Enables the City of Asheville to leverage $67,500 in Federal and State funds to support transit planning activities.

**Con(s):**

- The City is responsible for half of the 20% local match, which is $7,500.

**Fiscal Impact**:

- The required local match in the amount of $7,500 will be included in the proposed FY 2020-21 Transit Operating Budget.

**Suggested Motion:**

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to apply to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Public Transportation Division for the FY 20-21 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funds, which are used on a recurring basis

to fund a portion of the existing Transit Planning Division personnel budget, and if successful, to accept the grant funds, and sign all the appropriate agreements, and include the revenue in the FY 2020-21 Budget.

**Attachment(s)**

- **Resolution**

RESOLUTION NO. 20 -_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FUND THE TRANSIT PLANNING PROGRAM, SECTION 5303 METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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

WHEREAS, funds for Fiscal Year 20-21 are available from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT) through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has received financial assistance in the amount of $75,000 for the cost of transit planning from the NCDOT; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville will comply with all applicable Federal and State requirements in accepting the grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville will provide a 10% local match in the amount of $7,500 which is budgeted in the Transit Services Fund budget;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for and accept a grant from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation to fund the transit planning program, Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program of the Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Year 20-21 and to execute any and all documents necessary to give effect to this action.

Read, approved and adopted this 11 day of February 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney