THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 10, 2020

Subject: Authorization to Apply for and Submit Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Section 5310 and JARC (Section 5307) Funds Grant Applications.

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit grant applications in response to the annual Call for Projects issued by the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for the FY 2019 Section 5310 and 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 in the FY20-21 Budget.

Background:

- On January 31, 2020, FBRMPO issued a call for projects for the Federal Transit Administration FY 2019 Section 5310 and JARC Funds soliciting proposals, and upon evaluating proposals received, FBRMPO will award grant funds through a competitive process to successful applicants.
- The Section 5310 Funding program is used for improving mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services provided in the City of Asheville, and to provide enhanced mobility options to seniors and individuals with disabilities. The City uses 5310 funds to pay for a portion of the City's existing paratransit service. The total amount of funding available from FY 2019 5310 funds is $303,332 and the City expects to apply for $166,832, which is the maximum allowed under the program. The match for these funds is 20%.
- The 5307 JARC funding source is 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. Route 170 frequency was increased from 5 to 8 trips per day recently with the January 5 launch of increased transit service per the Transit Master Plan.
- The total amount of funding available from FY 2019 5307 JARC funds is $296,270 and the City expects to apply for $231,558, which is 50% of the total cost to operate the route 170 (the match for JARC funds is 50%).
- 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.The grant application deadline for both grants is March 27, 2020.
- These funds are annual recurring funds that are used to fund existing paratransit services and the Route 170 to Black Mountain.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Project funding will enable the City of Asheville to use federal funds to help offset the annual operating cost of paratransit and Route 170 fixed-route services. Grant recipients and subrecipients are responsible for their local match.

- The City will also receive $62,700 for oversight and administrative cost which does not require a local match. Of this amount, $33,703 will be used for the administrative cost for the Section 5310 program, with the remaining amount of $29,627 to be used for administering the JARC grant program.

Con(s):

- The City is responsible for the 20% and 50% local match for the Section 5310 and JARC Funding programs respectively.

Fiscal Impact:

- The local match will be included in the proposed FY 2020-21 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:

    a. FY 2019 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 in the FY20-21 Budget.

    b. FY 2019 Section 5307 JARC 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 in the FY20-21 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 ORGANIZATION AND TO APPLY TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 SECTION 5310 AND JARC GRANT PROGRAMS

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 FY 2019 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 FTA will reimburse grant applicants for up to 50 of operating cost and 80 percent of capital cost of projects implemented with these funding programs; and

WHEREAS, the local match would come from the City of Asheville General Funds;

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:

c. FY 2019 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 in the FY20-21 Budget.

d. FY 2019 Section 5307 JARC 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 in the FY20-21 Budget.

Read, approved and adopted this 10th day of March, 2020.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney