City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

Subject: Expending and disbursing Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Transit Administration 5310 and 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute Grant funds

Staff Resource(s): Ashley Haire, Transportation Department Director; Jessica Morriss, Transportation Department Assistant Director; Christopher Whitlock, Transit Division Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept, expend, and disburse Federal Transit Administration Grant funds from the Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute Program and the Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program; authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary agreements with the applicable transit Subrecipients for the disbursement of the approved funds; and approving a budget amendment in the amount of $488,946 to add these federal funds to the Transit Services Multi-year Fund.

Background:

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funds are apportioned to the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA) annually by the Federal Transit Administration and are disbursed by the City of Asheville, as the Designated Recipient, to the regional transit agencies (Subrecipients), including Buncombe County, Land of Sky Regional Council, Senior Companions - Caregiver Project and Buncombe County Agency on Aging.
- This action would authorize the expenditure and disbursement of City and Subrecipient transit grant funds for FY 2025 from two annual programs that support existing transit services.
    - Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) - the total amount of funds for this program originates from a 10% set-aside of Section 5307 Urbanized Area. Each year, agencies must apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) for JARC Funds. The City typically receives JARC funds to offset some of the cost of Routes 170, S3, and more recently the S6. In FY 2025, the City of Asheville was the only JARC recipient. The FY 2026 JARC application process will be completed by the FBRMPO, and City staff will bring forward the award at that time.
    - Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities - these funds are allocated annually to the AUZA. Each year, agencies must apply to the FBRMPO for 5310 funds.
- The City Attorney's Office and Purchasing Division have determined that a City Council resolution specifically authorizing the disbursement of funds to each Subrecipient, the amount being disbursed to each, and the execution of agreements, is necessary in order to provide reimbursements to Subrecipients.

Section 5307 Urban Transit Funds

Section 5307 JARC Funding will be distributed as follows:

- Subrecipient City of Asheville under project Route 170, S3, and S6 Operations is awarded a Federal amount of $420,732 and Local Match amount of $420,732.

Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Funds will be distributed as follows:

- Subrecipient Buncombe County under project Supplemental Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program known as SEDTAP is awarded a Federal amount of $245,697.17 and Local Match amount of $61,423.83.
- Subrecipient Buncombe County under project RIDE voucher program is awarded a Federal amount of $60,507.94 and Local Match amount of $60,507.94.
- Subrecipient Henderson County under project Accessible Pedestrian Signals is awarded a Federal amount of $150,255.18 and a local match amount of $37,563.82.
- Subrecipient Council on Aging Buncombe County under project Call - A - Ride Program is awarded Federal amount of $32,485.61 and Local Match amount of $32,485.61.
- Subrecipient City of Asheville under project Program Administration at 10% is awarded a Federal amount of $54,627 with no local match being awarded.

Vendor Outreach Efforts: N/A. These funds are apportioned to the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA) annually by the Federal Transit Administration and are disbursed by the City of Asheville, as the Designated Recipient, to the regional transit agencies (Subrecipients), including Buncombe County, Land of Sky Regional Council, Senior Companions - Caregiver Project and Buncombe County Agency on Aging, etc.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Transportation And Accessibility

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- N/A

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- The City's required matching funds are included annually in the Transit Fund operating budget. The City's local match for FY 2025 JARC Set-Aside funding was already encumbered. The administrative funds the City of Asheville will receive from the FY 2025 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program do not necessitate a local match. This funding will be included in the FY 2027 Adopted Budget.

- The City “passes through” funding to each subrecipient and is not responsible for their local match. The total of pass-through funding in the amount of $488,946 will be appropriated by the budget amendment in the Transit Services Multi-Year Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution: authorizing the City Manager to accept, expend, and disburse Federal Transit Administration Grant funds from the Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute Program and the Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program; authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary agreements between the City of Asheville and the applicable transit Subrecipients for the disbursement of the approved funds; and approving a budget amendment in the amount of $488,946 to add these federal funds to the Transit Services Multi-year Fund.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Accept, Expend, And Disburse Federal Transit Administration Grant Funds From The Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute Program And The Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Of Seniors And Individuals With Disabilities Program And To Execute All Necessary Agreements Between The City Of Asheville And The Applicable Transit Subrecipients For The Disbursement Of The Approved Funds

Whereas, the City has the authority, pursuant to General Statute section 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 City receives annual apportionments from the Federal Transit Administration. These funds are disbursed by the City of Asheville, as the Designated Recipient, to the regional transit agencies (Subrecipients), including Buncombe County, Henderson County, etc.; and

Whereas, the City is allocated Section 5307 Urbanized Area annually for the Asheville Urbanized Area and these funds are split between the City and Subrecipients based on a formula determined by the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization. The FY 2025 funding allocations to the City and Subrecipients have been established; and

Whereas, each year there is a 10% set-aside of the Section 5307 Urbanized Area for the Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute program. Each year, agencies must apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for Job Access Reverse Commute Funds; and

Whereas, the City is allocated Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds annually for the Asheville Urbanized Area. Each year, agencies must apply to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization for 5310 funds; and

Whereas, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization holds a competitive annual call for project applications for the 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute funds and for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds and has awarded the FY 2025 projects; and

Whereas, a resolution authorizing the disbursement of the three annual funding programs to each Subrecipient, the amount being disbursed to each, and the execution of agreements, is necessary in order to provide reimbursements to Subrecipients.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that: The City Council adopts a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept, expend, and disburse Federal Transit Administration Grant funds from the Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute Program and the Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program; authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary agreements between the City of Asheville and the applicable transit Subrecipients for the disbursement of the approved funds; and approving a budget amendment in the amount of $488,946 to add these federal funds to the Transit Services Multi-year Fund.

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Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk

City of Asheville Budget Amendment Ordinance Number ____

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Asheville.

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $488,946 to accept Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5307 Urbanized Area and Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5310 funding as follows:

Transit Services Multi-Year Fund

Revenues:

Federal Grants - $488,946

Total Revenues: $488,946

Expenditures:

Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Programs Grant - $488,946

Total Expenditures: $488,946

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

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk