City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

Subject: Annual Section 5303 grant funds for Fiscal Year 27 Transit personnel funds from North Carolina Department of Transportation

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution ratifying the City's February 2026 application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division for Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funding for Fiscal Year 2027; and authorizing the City Manager to accept any funds awarded and to enter into any agreements necessary for acceptance and expenditure of grant funds.

Background:

- The City must apply annually to the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division to receive Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 funds (Metropolitan Planning Program). Staff applied for this funding February 16, 2026.
- The City uses the Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 funding to fund existing transit planning activities such as grant management, administration, and reporting; short- and long-range transit planning; analyses of transit operations; and required program preparation and reporting.
- The funds supplement the Transit Division personnel budget, which includes the Transit Division Manager and additional transit planning staff positions.
- The total grant is $189,839 and includes a 20% match. The Federal Transit Administration grant will provide 80% of the anticipated funding ($151,871), with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Asheville each providing half of the required 20% match, or $18,984 and $18,984, respectively.

Vendor Outreach Efforts: N/A. This is a grant that supplements the Transit Division personnel budget.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- N/A

Committee(s): None

Fiscal Impact:

- The total grant is $189,839 and includes a 20% match. The Federal Transit Administration will provide 80% of the anticipated funding ($151,871), with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Asheville each providing half of the required 20% match, or $18,984 each.
- This funding and match will be included in the FY 2027 Adopted Budget.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a resolution ratifying the City's February 2026 application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division for Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funding for Fiscal Year 2027; and authorizing the City Manager to accept any funds awarded and to enter into any agreements necessary for acceptance and expenditure of grant funds.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution Ratifying the City's February 2026 Application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division for Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funding for Fiscal Year 2027

Whereas, the City has authority, pursuant to General Statute section 160A-17.1, to apply for and receive grants from the Federal and state governments and their agencies and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville's Grants Policy requires the City Council to authorize application for any grant of $90,000 or greater;

Whereas, funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 are available from the North Carolina Department of Transportation through the Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville would receive $170,855, with 80% ($151,871) of the amount coming from the Federal Transit Administration, and 10% ($18,984) from the North Carolina Department of Transportation if awarded such funds; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville would provide a 10% local match in the amount of $18,984 which will be budgeted in the Transit Operations Fund budget; and

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

Whereas, the City of Asheville wishes to ratify the February 2026 application for these funds and authorize acceptance and expenditure of these funds.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The February 2026 application for grant funds from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund the transit planning program, Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program of the Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 is ratified; and the City Manager is authorized to accept and funds awarded and to enter into any agreements necessary for acceptance and expenditure of grant funds.

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