

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM:

- (1) Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2015 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program Grant Application for Buncombe County/Mountain Mobility
- (2) Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute an Application for Funding, Enter Into Agreement With the N.C. Department of Transportation, and to Provide the Necessary Assurances

MEETING DATE:

November 5, 2013

REQUESTED BY:

Jon Creighton by Denise Braine, Buncombe County Planning and Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Buncombe County is designated as the applicant for Section 5311 Community Transportation program funding to support the provision of transportation services provided through Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation System. Mountain Mobility serves senior adults, persons with disabilities, clients of human service agencies, and general public transportation outside of Asheville, as well as services under mandated programs such as Medicaid and the ART's ADA Comparable Paratransit Program. Mountain Mobility is administered under a contract with the Land-of-Sky Regional Council and is operated under a contract with McDonald Transit Associates. An overview of Mountain Mobility services is provided with agenda documents. Additional information and a video on services provided, eligibility, senior transportation, and general public Trailblazer routes, as well as performance and statistical information, is available on the County's web site at www.buncombecounty.org/transportation.

This Public Hearing and Resolution relate to Buncombe County's annual (FY 2015) grant application to the NCDOT for administrative and capital funds available to support community transportation programs in North Carolina. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow members of the community an opportunity to comment on transportation needs and the grant application. A notice of the Public Hearing and the opportunity to comment on the proposed grant application was published in the Asheville Citizen-Times newspaper, was posted on Buncombe County's web site, and was distributed to various organizations and groups that may have an interest in services provided. A description of the proposed funding is provided in the section below.

The NCDOT also incorporated a new process for requesting state match funds for capital expenditures for expansion equipment for fiscal years 2016 through 2020. This new process is required under North Carolina's new Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Legislation (SL 2013-185). Based on current vehicle utilization and service demands, we project one expansion vehicle will be needed by FY 2018, requiring the submission of a STI Project Funding Request Form and Local Commitment form. Formal application for the expansion vehicle will not be made until the fall of 2016.

Pro's	Con's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help support the administrative and capital needs of Mountain Mobility; • Enhance access to health care, shopping, education, employment, and public services; • Assist in the maintenance, development, improvement and use of public transportation systems; • Encourages and facilitates the most efficient use of all transportation funds used to provide passenger transportation through the coordination of programs and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires significant program monitoring and oversight by Buncombe County staff to ensure that federal/state funds are used for the intended purpose, including financial administration and oversight, maintenance documentation, vehicle inspections, site visits to contractors and agencies, compliance documentation for employee selection, driver training, safety and security, etc.

FUNDS REQUIRED:

Buncombe County's Section 5311 Community Transportation Program grant application and STI requests includes the following:

Section 5311/CT Grant:

Administrative Grant

Total: \$429,783 (Capped level)
 State/Federal Funds: \$365,315 (85%)
 Local Match: \$64,468 (15%)

Administrative funds will help offset technology and communication costs of software and systems used for eligibility, reservations, scheduling, dispatching, data communications, etc., facility costs, employee training and development, vehicle insurance, drug and alcohol testing programs, and other eligible administrative costs related to providing Mountain Mobility services and programs.

Capital Grant

Total: \$298,570
 State/Federal Funds: \$268,712 (90%)
 Local Match: \$29,858 (10%)

Capital funds will be used to replace the following items that have met state/federal age or mileage criteria for replacement: Three (3) Light Transit Vehicles (20-passenger lift-equipped vehicles with CNG engine options; two (2) handheld mobile radios.

FY 2018 STI Expansion Vehicle Request

Total: \$59,950
 State/Federal Funds: \$27,816 Federal (46.4%); \$26,138 State (43.6%); Total Federal/State = \$53,954 (90%)
 Local Match: \$5,996 (10%)

An STI Project Request Form will be submitted requesting funding in FY 2018 for one (1) lift-equipped expansion van equipped with required security camera technology.

Funds/Staff Requested:

Local match requirements will be met through the Fund 30/Transportation budget request process.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no alternatives for administrative funds available through the Section 5311 CTP program. There are limited alternatives to capital funds available; however, match requirements are higher under other alternatives.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- (1) Hold public hearing and receive comments.
- (2) Approve Resolution Authorizing the Submission of the FY 2015 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program Grant Application and STI Project Request Form for FY 2018.