

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM:

- (1) Joint Public Hearing on Two Proposed Grant Applications to be Submitted to the NCDOT for Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation Program:
 - (a) FY 2016 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program Grant
 - (b) FY 2016 Appalachian Development Transportation Assistance Program Grant
- (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 for the FY 2016 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program
- (3) 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 for the FY 2016 Appalachian Development Transportation Assistance Program

MEETING DATE:

November 18, 2014

REQUESTED BY:

Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager

Presenters: Denise Braine, Planner III, Buncombe County Planning and Development
Lyuba Zuyeva, Mountain Mobility Transit Program Manager, Land-of-Sky Regional Council
Lori Hembree, Mountain Mobility General Manager, McDonald Transit Associates

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 City of Asheville/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. 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.

Buncombe County applies for state and federal grant funds on an annual basis to support administrative and capital costs associated with the operation of Mountain Mobility. For the FY 2016 program year, we propose to submit applications to the NCDOT under two grant programs for these purposes, (a) the Section 5311 Community Transportation Program for administrative and capital grant funding; and (b) the Appalachian Development Transportation Assistance Program for capital grant funding. The NCDOT allows a joint public hearing to be held on the two grant applications. Following the joint public hearing, the Board of Commissioners is requested to consider the adoption of resolutions authorizing the submission of each grant application.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow members of the community an opportunity to comment on transportation needs and the grant application. Notices of the public hearing and the opportunity to comment on the proposed grant applications were published in the Asheville Citizen-Times newspaper, posted on Buncombe County's web site, and were distributed to various organizations and groups that may have an interest in services provided. A description of the proposed projects and funding requests for each grant are provided in Attachment A – Summary of FY 2016 Grant Applications.

<p>Pro's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help support the administrative, operational and capital needs of Mountain Mobility; • Enhance access to health care, shopping, education, employment, and public services, including improvements to rural transportation and connectivity with other community transportation systems in the surrounding counties; • Assist in the maintenance, development, improvement and use of public transportation systems; • Provides technical assistance to include project planning, program and management development, public transportation coordination activities, and research to promote effective delivery of public transportation in rural areas of the designated Appalachian region, • Encourages and facilitates the most efficient use of all transportation funds used to provide passenger transportation through the coordination of programs and services. 	<p>Con's</p> <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.
<p>FUNDS REQUIRED:</p> <p>See Attachment A – Summary of Grant Applications</p>	
<p>ALTERNATIVES:</p> <p>Currently there are no alternatives for administrative funds available through the Section 5311 CTP program. There are limited alternatives to capital grant funds available; however, match requirements are usually higher under other alternatives.</p>	
<p>ACTION RECOMMENDED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Hold joint public hearing on the two grant applications and receive comments. (2) Approve Resolution Authorizing the Submission of the FY 2016 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program Grant Application. (3) Approve Resolution Authorizing the Submission of the FY 2016 Appalachian Development Transportation Program Grant Application. 	