

SUMMARY OF FY 2016 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Section 5311 Community Transportation Program Grant Application

Administrative Grant

Total Application:	\$351,562	(Capped level)
State/Federal Funds:	\$298,827	(85%)
Local Match:	\$ 52,735	(15%)

Administrative funds will help offset technology and communication costs of software and systems used for eligibility, reservations, scheduling, dispatching, data communications, etc., as well as operations 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. Local match funds will be available within the Fund 30 transportation budget.

In September, the NCDOT-Public Transportation Division notified Buncombe County that beginning in FY2016, the NCDOT would no longer offer the same level of state funding to Community Transportation Systems that are recognized by FTA's National Transit Database as an urban transit service provider. The NCDOT decided to begin this transition in FY 2016 by reducing the level of funding participation for the urban portion of Mountain Mobility's administrative costs, which has resulted in a reduction of \$66,488 in state and federal funding for FY 2016.

Buncombe County Planning and Development has been in discussions and meetings with the French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to request an allocation of urban Section 5307 funding for public transportation services. The City of Asheville is the direct recipient of federal transit funds for this region. Current recipients of Section 5307 funding are the City of Asheville (for ART urban transportation services) and Henderson County (for Apple Country urban transportation services). Staff is seeking to secure Section 5307 funding for FY 2016 as directed by the NCDOT-Public Transportation Division.

Capital Grant

Total:	\$480,978
State/Federal Funds:	\$432,879 (90%)
Local Match:	\$ 48,099 (10%)

Capital funds will be used to replace the following items that have met state/federal mileage or age criteria for replacement:

- Replacement of one (1) non-lift conversion van;
- Replacement of four (4) lift-equipped conversion vans;
- Replacement of two (2) Light Transit Vehicles (20-passenger lift-equipped vehicles with CNG engine options);
- Replacement of seven (7) mobile radios.

Appalachian Development Transportation Assistance Program (ADTAP) Grant Application

Total:	\$117,300
Federal Funds:	\$ 93,840 (80%)
Local Match:	\$ 23,460 (20%)

The national objective of the Appalachian Development Transportation Assistance Program (ADTAP) is the delivery of safe, reliable public transportation services to rural areas in the Appalachian region. Buncombe County is one of 29 counties in North Carolina eligible to apply for funding under this program. Buncombe County's proposed grant application seeks capital funding for the following projects:

ADTAP Planning Study (\$45,000)

Mountain Mobility is facing increasing financial constraints in serving the transportation needs of Buncombe County residents living beyond the service area of the City's urbanized area fixed route system (ART). Mountain Mobility has experienced an almost 12% increase in ridership between FY 2010 and FY 2014: from 144,892 passenger trips in FY 2010 to 162,100 passenger trips in FY 2014. Increased demand creates an increase in administrative and operating costs. State and federal funding has remained virtually static during this same time period, creating increased costs for contracting agencies and/or Buncombe County. The County is now facing a budget reduction in state operating funds for FY 2015 and substantial budget reductions in Section 5311 funding for FY 2016 and beyond. ADTAP funding provides an opportunity to perform a detailed analysis of Mountain Mobility ridership and to develop a service model that maintains current levels of access to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation for residents of Buncombe County while increasing structure and efficiency to ensure the cost of those service levels are sustainable within local, state, and federal funding constraints. The proposed planning study will further recommend options to improve connectivity to the urban fixed route system, as well as connectivity to other rural counties surrounding Buncombe, including Haywood, Madison, and McDowell counties.

Although the NCDOT is conducting a comprehensive planning study to update Buncombe County's Community Transportation Service Plan, that planning process does not encompass the components proposed in the ADTAP Planning Study.

Notification Module for Routing and Scheduling Software System (\$72,300)

This proposed advanced technology project will involve the purchase and implementation of a Notification Module for the Routematch scheduling and routing software program currently used by Mountain Mobility's administrative and operations contractors. The technology will provide a vital mechanism for improving productivity and achieving operating efficiencies (reduction in labor and fuel costs, etc.).

The Notification Module (also known as Interactive Voice Response or IVR) is a technology used by transit systems and call centers to enable and deploy efficient routing decisions. Features of this technology include:

- Night-Before Trip Reminders to reduce no-shows and late cancellations;
- Automated Confirmation and Cancellation of Trip Requests to confirm trip reservations and reduce same-day cancellations which can in turn allow the dispatcher to optimize daily schedules and combine routes to fill empty seats before vehicle routes begin each day;
- Automated real-time trip arrival and delay notifications;
- Creation of general or customizable messages to Mountain Mobility riders, including system alerts, service changes, and targeted group messages for weather delays or cancellations; and
- Emergency messages.