

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NCDOT GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- 1) Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2019 Annual Section 5311 Administrative and Capital Grant Applications to be Submitted to the NCDOT for Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation Program
- 2) Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute an Application for FY 2019 Public Transportation Program Funding, Enter Into Agreement With the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and to Provide the Necessary Assurances

MEETING DATE:

October 17, 2017

REQUESTED BY:

Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager

Presenter: Matthew Cable, Planner III, Buncombe County Planning and Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation System, serves senior adults, persons with disabilities, clients of human service agencies, and general public transportation outside of Asheville, as well as transportation services under mandated programs such as Medicaid and the City of Asheville/ART's ADA Comparable Paratransit Program. Buncombe County Planning and Development provides transportation program management for the County. Mountain Mobility is administered under a contract between Buncombe County and the Land-of-Sky Regional Council and is operated under a contract with McDonald Transit Associates.

Since 1989, Buncombe County has been the designated applicant and recipient of state and federal funding available through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to support the provision of transportation services provided through Mountain Mobility. The designated applicant must have the technical and financial capacity necessary to apply for, administer, operate, carry out the transportation projects, and comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and guidelines.

The public hearing and resolution authorizing the submission of applications are required under the program guidelines for annual grant applications to the NCDOT for administrative and capital grant funding. A summary of FY 2019 grant funding requests is provided.

Notices of the public hearing and the opportunity to comment on transportation needs and the proposed grant applications were published in the Asheville Citizen-Times newspaper, posted on Buncombe County's website, and were distributed to various organizations and groups that may have an interest in services provided.

Additional information on Mountain Mobility services is available on the County's web site at www.buncombecounty.org/transportation.

Pro's

- Helps support the administrative and capital needs of Mountain Mobility;
- Enhances 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;
- Assists 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.

Con's

- 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 in current budget:

None

Funds required in future budgets:

See the summary of FY 2019 grant funding requests for local match requirements. No additional funds will be required over the amount of funding usually allocated to Fund 30 in the budget process.

ALTERNATIVES:

Currently there are no alternatives for administrative funds available under this program. There are limited alternatives to capital grant funds available; however, match requirements are usually higher under other alternatives.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Following the public hearing, consider motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute an Application for FY 2019 Section 5311 Public Transportation Program Funding, Enter Into Agreement With the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and to Provide the Necessary Certifications and Grant Documents.