

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE: January 17, 2012**

**Actions Requested:**

- (1) Hold Public Hearing on a Proposed Grant Application for Funding under the Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program**
- (2) Adopt 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**

**Background Information**

Mountain Mobility serves senior adults, persons with disabilities, and clients of human service agencies, and also provides general public transportation outside of Asheville and services under mandated programs such as Medicaid and ADA transportation. 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](http://www.buncombecounty.org/transportation).

Buncombe County desires to submit a grant application for funding under the Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program. The goal of the Section 5310 Program is to provide transportation services that meet the special needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities for whom mass transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. Funds can be used for the purchase of vehicles and related capital equipment and for operating costs. The purpose of this 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 on Sunday, January 8; was posted on Buncombe County's web site; and was distributed to various organizations and groups that may have an interest in services provided.

The proposed grant application requests funding to buy one expansion vehicle with a camera system for Mountain Mobility's passenger transportation fleet and includes a request for two years of operating funds for the vehicle. While the County could apply for capital funding under its Section 5311/CTP Program grant, staff recommend applying under this program because an expansion van is more likely to be funded under this program and because the demand for additional transportation services is primarily generated by senior adults and individuals with disabilities. The expansion of the fleet is warranted based on a 9.5% increase in ridership from FY10 to FY11 and an increase in the number of passengers transported during peak service hours. Based on that analysis, it was determined that 39 to 44 vehicles are required to provide transportation on service days with high demand. Mountain Mobility currently has 36 vehicles available for peak service, plus 6 back-up vehicles to meet the state's spare vehicle requirements. Staff recommends that the fleet be expanded by one vehicle at this time and then have fleet requirements updated as a part of the County's Community Transportation Services Plan (CTSP).

**Proposed Grant Application/Funding:**

The Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program grant application includes the following requests:

**Capital Grant**

Total: \$45,175  
State/Federal Funds: \$40,657 (90%)  
Local Match: \$4,518 (10%)

**Operating Grant (Two Years)**

Total: \$91,400  
State/Federal Funds: \$45,700 (50%)  
Local Match: \$45,700 (50%)

**Funds/Staff Requested:**

Local funds (County funds and/or other local revenues) will be requested within the FY 2013 Fund 30/Transportation budget request. No additional staff or local funds are requested.

**Request submitted by:** *Denise Braine, Buncombe County Planning and Development*

**Date Submitted:** *January 9, 2012*

**To be Presented by:** *Hope Bleecker, Regional Transit Planner, Land-of-Sky Regional Council*