

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM:

- (1) Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2017 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program Grant Application 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 Funding, Enter Into Agreement With the N.C. Department of Transportation, and to Provide the Necessary Assurances for the FY 2017 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program

MEETING DATE:

October 20, 2015

REQUESTED BY:

Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager

Presenter: Denise Braine, Planner III, 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. This public hearing and the resolution are required as a part of the FY 2017 grant application to the NCDOT under the Section 5311 Community Transportation Program for administrative and capital grant funding for Mountain Mobility. A summary of FY 2017 grant funding requests is provided with the agenda information.

Notices of the public hearing and the opportunity to comment on transportation needs and the proposed grant application 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.

Mountain Mobility 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. 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.

Pro's

- 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;

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.

- 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.

Funds required in current budget:

None

Funds required in future budgets:

See Attachment A 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 through the Section 5311 CTP program. There are limited alternatives to capital grant funds available; however, match requirements are usually higher under other alternatives.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Hold public hearing and consider adoption of the Resolution authorizing submission of the grant application.