



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 3/3/2020

#### **New Business**

**Department:** Planning and Development

**Presenter:** Nathan Pennington, CFM, Planning Director

**Contact:** Gillian Phillips, AICP, Planner III

**Subject:** Approval of the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consulting firm in the creation of a comprehensive plan

**Brief Summary:** Buncombe County is currently experiencing a development boom; further heightened by our desirable status as a Gateway Community which attracts both new residents and tourists alike to our area. The County continues to urbanize as growth expands within unincorporated Buncombe and around Asheville and the other municipalities. Given this growth and transition, the Planning and Development Department, senior leadership, citizens and the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners (through the strategic planning process) have determined that it is an appropriate time to engage in a thorough and comprehensive planning process to establish a broad and long-range view of what the citizens and the Commissioners envision for future growth, community needs and shared goals.

As such, the Buncombe County Planning Department has requested \$400,000 through the FY2021 CIP and budget process to retain a consulting firm to assist with the comprehensive planning process, with the outcome being a citizen engaged and policy-focused comprehensive plan for how Buncombe County will grow and guide the present and future physical, social and economic development of our area. The release of the RFP will allow staff to better estimate the financial needs and budget that will be necessary to complete the plan.

#### **Recommended Motion & Requested Action:**

Approve the release of the RFP to retain a consulting firm to initiate and assist staff with a comprehensive planning process, with the outcome being a citizen engaged and policy-focused plan for Buncombe County.

#### **County Manager's Comments and Recommendation:**

County Manager recommends as presented.