



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action
Meeting Date: 6/16/2020

Consent Agenda

Department: Planning & Development, Community Development Division

Presenter(s): Matthew Cable

Contact(s): Matthew Cable

Subject: ART Leicester Highway Transit Extension Funding for FY 2021

Brief Summary:

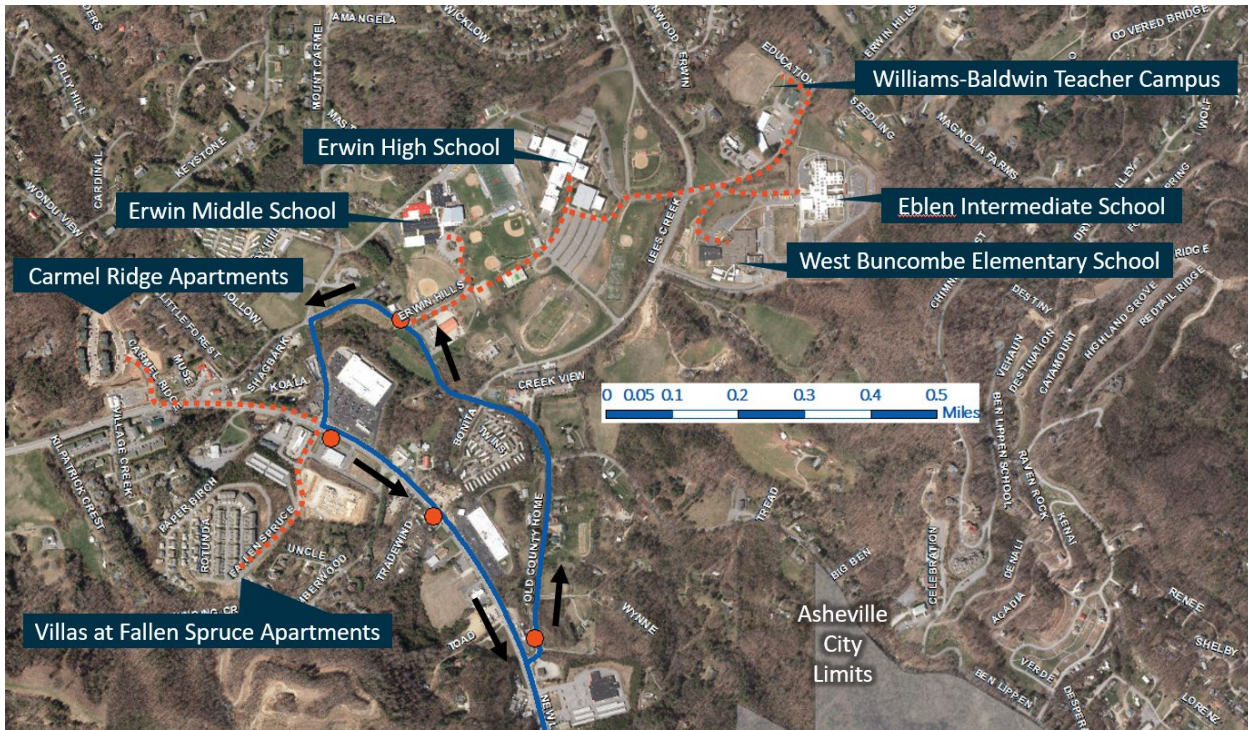
The City of Asheville requests continued funding support for the Asheville Rides Transit (ART) W4 route extension and associated paratransit services for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The City is requesting \$73,201 in funding for the service period.

The County supported extending the route for the period of January 5, 2020 through June 30, 2020 by rescinding grant funding to the City of Asheville in the amount of \$28,934. COVID-19 impacted ridership soon after the service extension began. Table 1 details boarding at each stop along the extension and the average cost per rider based on average cost by month for the period of January through April 2020.

Table 1. W4 Route Extension Boarding: January to April, 2020				
Stop	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20*	Apr-20*
Old County Home Rd at Exxon	0	3	0	0
Old County Home Rd at Fire Department	0	2	0	0
Mt. Carmel Rd at Ingles	7	20	0	14
New Leicester Hwy at Walgreens	32	161	163	46
Total Boarding	39	186	163	60
Average Monthly Funding Rescinded	\$ 4,822	\$ 4,822	\$ 4,822	\$ 4,822
Average Cost Per Rider	\$ 123.64	\$ 25.92	\$ 29.58	\$ 80.37

*COVID-19 impacts ridership beginning in mid-March.

The W4 route extension operates Monday through Sunday in the Leicester community and includes: two (2) miles of service; four (4) signed stops; and fixed-route transit access in proximity to Erwin Middle and High Schools (see Service Area Map).



Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

The County rescind a portion of its suballocated Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Program grant funds in the amount of \$73,201 to support the ART Leicesters Highway Transit Extension for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

County Manager’s Comments and Recommendation:

Approve the rescinding of funds to support the extension for the period as described.