

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2012

Actions Requested:

- (1) Hold Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2013 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program Grant Application for Buncombe County/Mountain Mobility**
- (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

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. 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.

This Public Hearing and Resolution relate to Buncombe County's annual grant application to the NCDOT for administrative and capital funds available to support community transportation programs in North Carolina. The purpose of the 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. A description of the proposed funding is provided in the section below.

Proposed Grant Application/Funding:

The Section 5311 Community Transportation Program grant application includes the following requests:

Administrative Grant

Total: \$429,783 (Capped at FY 2012 level)
State/Federal Funds: \$365,315 (85%)
Local Match: \$64,468 (15%)

Administrative funds will help offset technology and communication costs of software and systems used for eligibility, reservations, scheduling, dispatching, data communications, etc., facility costs, employee training and development, vehicle insurance, drug and alcohol testing programs, and other eligible administrative costs related to providing Mountain Mobility services and programs.

Capital Grant

Total: \$513,848
State/Federal Funds: \$462,460 (90%)
Local Match: \$51,388 (10%)

Capital funds will be used to replace the following items that have met state/federal age or mileage criteria for replacement: three (3) conversion vans; nine (9) lift-equipped conversion vans; two (2) mobile radios; and five (5) desktop computers.

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*