

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NCDOT GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- 1) Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2018 Administrative and Capital Annual Grant Applications to be Submitted to the NCDOT for Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation Program
- 2) Resolution Authorizing the Filing of Applications with the North Carolina Department of Transportation– Public Transportation Division for Grant Years FY2018 – FY2022, for Federal Transportation Assistance Authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5311, United States Code, Other Federal Statutes Administered by the Federal Transit Administration or State Statutes Administered by the State of North Carolina
- 3) 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 2018 Section 5311 Community Transportation Program
- 4) Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute an Application Under the FY 2018 Public Transportation Consolidated Capital Call for Projects Program, Enter Into Agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation, and to Provide the Necessary Assurances

MEETING DATE:

October 18, 2016

REQUESTED BY:

Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager

Presenter: Denise Braine, Planner III, Buncombe County Planning and Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since 1989, Buncombe County has been the designated applicant and recipient of state and federal 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, 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.

The public hearing and resolutions authorizing the submission of applications are required as a part of the FY 2018 grant applications to the NCDOT for administrative and capital grant funding for Mountain Mobility. A summary of FY 2018 grant funding requests is provided.

As a new item in this year's application process, the NCDOT is requiring all counties to adopt a resolution designating the applicant for federal and state funding for the next five years. The County may either designate itself or may, at its discretion, designate another qualified entity. The designated applicant must have the technical and financial capacity necessary to apply for, administer, operate, carry out the transportation projects, and comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and guidelines. Staff recommends that the Board re-designate Buncombe County as the designated applicant and recipient of all state and federal funds received through the NCDOT for the administration, operations, and capital needs of Mountain Mobility.

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

Additional information on services provided, eligibility, senior transportation, and general public Trailblazer routes, 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;
- 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.

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.

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 under this 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 three resolutions required as a part of the grant applications.