



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

**Meeting Date: February 4, 2025**

#### **New Business**

**Department:** Planning & Development

**Presenter(s):** William High

**Contact(s):** William High

**Subject:** FY 2026 FTA Section 5307 Funding Rescission

#### **Brief Summary:**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requests subrecipients spend expiring transit funds. Buncombe County, because of existing FTA CARES and ARPA funding that must be spent before regular annual funding, will be unable to spend expiring regular funds in advance of expiration. Recognizing these constraints, and in support of the City of Asheville's funding needs for its ART transit system, County transportation staff recommend the Board of Commissioners consideration of rescinding funds to the City of Asheville to support its FY2026 transit activities. The following funding amounts in the following funding categories are recommended to be rescinded:

- \$782,544 in FY2020 Section 5307 annual allocations, and
- \$81,794 in FY2020 Section 5307 JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute).

County transportation staff recommend rescinding funds consistent with prior practice. The County has previously rescinded Section 5307 funds to support specific City of Asheville ART transit routes in the recent four (4) fiscal years with additional conditions applied in the last rescission.

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

Motion to rescind \$864,338 of suballocated FTA Section 5307 annual and JARC funds to support the ART transit system in FY 2026 conditional on the City of Asheville:

- Accepting the funds under the expectation that no additional funds will be requested for the continued operation of the New Leicester Highway Extension & Route 170 in FY2026, and
- Not seeking any FY26 Section 5310 traditional funds to support eligible services to provide Buncombe County additional opportunities to receive funds; and
- Evaluating WE2 Route changes to improve safer connections to Buncombe County's Enka-Candler Trailblazer Route; and
- Evaluating increased trip frequency for the S3 and S6 routes serving south Asheville.
- 

#### **County Manager's Comments & Recommendations:**

County Manager recommends as presented.