

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** September 21, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Transit Vehicle Procurement and Lease

**PRESENTER:** Anthony W. Starr, AICP, Planning Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

In April 2009, the Board of Commissioners authorized staff to pursue grants for the purposes of acquiring compressed natural gas (CNG) transit vehicles. Stimulus grants were awarded in July 2009 to be used along with traditional Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants for vehicle procurement.

The City of Asheville is the direct recipient of grant funds and Henderson County is the subrecipient. Federal rules require the direct recipient (City of Asheville) own the transit vehicles. The City of Asheville issued a formal bid request with assistance from County staff. Bids were opened August 3, 2011. The City of Asheville must approve the bid, consistent with FTA regulations, and will then purchase the five (5) CNG medium-duty transit buses. The vehicles will be the first CNG buses in Western North Carolina.

Planning staff secured \$505,000 in stimulus funding and \$375,978 in other FTA funds for this project. NCDOT has approved \$43,000 in ten percent match funds for two (2) of the vehicles. The FY 2012 Henderson County budget provides \$83,255 for the required local match, taxes, tags, titles, graphics, and licensing fees. Staff anticipates \$66,888 of these funds will be needed, falling \$16,367 under budget.

Following the acceptance of the bid by the City of Asheville and signing of the lease agreement between the City of Asheville and Henderson County, it is anticipated that the vehicles will be in service as early as spring 2012.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Staff requests the Board of Commissioners authorize the Planning Director to execute a lease agreement with the City of Asheville for the five (5) compressed natural gas (CNG) transit vehicles.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

I move the Board authorize the Planning Director to execute a lease agreement with the City of Asheville for the 5 CNG transit vehicles.