ASHEVILLE TRANSIT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
First Floor Conference – City Hall
October 4, 2011 4:00-6:00

Attending:
Commission Members: Paul Van Heden, Julie Mayfield, Tom Tomlin, Ken O'Connor, Kevin Jenkins, Dave Erb.
Staff: Ken Putnam, Martha McGlohon, Yuri Koslen, Norman Schenck, Janet GeorgeMurr
Community members: Jonathan Glover, David Mosrie, David Frayer, Donna Oliver,

4:03 p.m.: Paul Van Heden opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
Paul Van Heden read the Explanation of Public Comment Standards and Opportunities.

Transit Commission Members listed above introduced themselves.

Staff for the City of Asheville listed above introduced themselves.

October 4, 2011 Agenda Amendments: None. Julie moved to approve the 10/4/11 agenda; Paul and Kevin second the motion and carried unanimously.

September 6, 2011 Transit Commission Minutes Approval -

- Yuri updated TC from the public comment regarding Ascot Point for a bus shelter: After further investigation of the intersection at Ascot Point, there is a 12 feet of right of way for an opportunity for more improvements.
- Julie - under Consolidation Study update on page 4 line 7: "Julie stated that if a TC commissioner...." should be "County Commissioner..."
- Ken O - under Consolidation Study on page 4 line 9 change to "Ken recalls the conversation with Wanda Greene that they would be working with the City and were planning discussions."
- Julie - under Transit Commissions Work Plan Update #3 (a) last sentence: to delete "Julie will remove herself from the list." Martha McGlohon stated that since Julie did state this at the last meeting, therefore cannot delete in the 9/6/11 minutes, but will be noted in the November 1 minutes that she requests not to be removed from the meeting request. Julie stated that she is on the list and will be the default person.
- Julie moved to approve the minutes; Paul second and carried unanimously.

Welcoming the Public – Introductions and Pre-Meeting Public Comment –
Public Comment - Part I: - David Frayer has observed what seemed to be drug deals at the Transit Center in the smoking section. Mr. Frayer has mentioned to APD a few years ago did not receive assistance. An APD officer is stationed at the Transit Center, but does not provide assistance by patrolling outside of the Transit Center building. Mr. Frayer suggested removing the smoking area which would prevent people from hanging out who are not riding the bus and for TC to "push" APD into looking into this matter. Norman stated that there is a designated smoking section on the Asheland Ave side of the Transit Center and the officers do patrol as well as a video monitor in the dispatch office. Norman continued to say that in some areas the officer has been very effective, but after hearing from Mr. Frayer comments, there needs to a different tactic in that the officer needs to be more visible. After a group discussion, TC requested a copy of the City Smoking Ban Policy. Yuri recommended to Mr.Frayer to email Iride.com from the ashevillenc.gov website of further issues and this information will go Norman Schenck.

Transit Commission Members' Experiences on ATS this past month:

- Tom – Route 170 on noon trip - the driver had plenty of time and when he circled through Warren Wilson College the students packed the bus. The bus driver had to call in to dispatch because he could not pick up anyone else along the way. The bus driver displayed the sign "Out of Service" until he reached the Asheville Mall on Tunnel Road.
- Julie – nothing to report

- Ken O – nothing to report
- Kevin - nothing to report
- Paul - bike rack was broken and then the next day the same bus was repaired
- Dave - generally very good and Route 2 has been busy.

Presentation by David Mosrie of Asheville e-Shuttle: Mr. Mosrie introduced himself and his partner Jonathan Glover to TC. They are proposing a new electric vehicle driven shuttle system in Asheville called the Asheville e-shuttle. Designed to increase local commerce and develop a new service that benefits residents, visitors and businesses. Mr. Mosrie will send the TC a copy of the business plan. Julie suggested after Mr. Mosrie finalizes the routes and is further along in the process to pull an advisory group together from different departments to help Mr. Mosrie in the process. Ken P stated there is a group of staff that is looking at the big picture. Paul stated that no one is against the idea of the shuttle, and suggested that when Mr. Mosrie has the maps and plans to contact Paul who will assist in names of staff members who could help in addressing Ms. Mosrie's needs. Mr. Mosrie stated that he is a couple of weeks away from completing the round of revisions and will get back to TC.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Process for realization of transit projects:** Julie asked as to what is the process from conception to completion of transit projects and the role for TC. Ken P stated that he and Mariate will have a report for the next meeting to lay the framework.
- **Bus passes** - Tom suggested having color coded passes for students in deterring patrons from misusing the system. Norman will send TC pass data.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Consolidation **Study Update** – Ken O asked Ken P if anyone from the County has contacted him regarding the study. Jon Creighton, Mariate and Ken P. had conceptual conversation that no matter what happens with the consolidation which includes Henderson County, to keep Buncombe County and the City working together. There hasn't been a conversation regarding meetings with Wanda Greene. Julie is trying to get the County to adopt a mirror resolution to the City. Ken O. stated that he has spoken with Wanda Greene who would work with the City and have discussions with the City. Within the County, Wanda would speak with Jon Creighton. Ken P. stated that he will bring this up to Mariate. Ken O will inform Wanda Greene or call Jon Creighton that this has been discussed.

Transit Commission Work Plan Update: Julie asked TC for updates on their respective goals.

1. **Funding** – Julie stated that she now has a draft of the "white paper" of different funding options.
2. **Public Relations and the Implementation of the Transit Master Plan (TMP):** Julie will add MM presentation to the Goals list.
4. **Advocacy:**
   - Yuri stated that he has not worked on Dave's PowerPoint Presentation.
   - Paul attended the Get There Asheville multi-modal candidate forum on 9/22/11. Julie stated that the overall attendance of this forum were cyclists. Transit interests were not adequately represented. The Western Alliance is a co-sponsored along with Asheville on Bikes. Yuri stated that Hanna Raskin, former TC chairman started this program.
   - Dave is speaking 10/5/11 on transportation at the Unitarian Church for Sierra Club and Green Drinks. It is not specifically a transit presentation, but, is prepared with lots of slides to respond to transit related questions.

- **Mural at Transit:** Paul stated that he has not heard from Diane Ruggiero in P&R at this time. Paul will call Diane and requested to keep this agenda item for next month.

- **Brief discussion of Swannanoa bus shelter:** Yuri stated he emailed Denise Braine of Planning Department, ,Buncombe County detailing the project and providing Kelsey Oliver's report on the solution, as follows:
  1. FANS (Friends and Neighbors of Swannanoa) provide funding for the shelter;
  2. Buncombe County and City sign an encroachment agreement;
  3. City staff to construct the shelter with funds from FANS;
  4. Buncombe County agrees to maintain the structure in the future.

Yuri continued to say that this is the only working model that Kelsey found in her research.

STAFF UPDATES:

• Ridership **Statistics** - Ken P. stated that TC receives monthly information on the ridership and wanted TC to get a different perspective in the TC packet. Ken P stated that this represents five years of transit ridership which finished out the year at a 5 year low - 22,000 less riders than we had in 2007 which is 1/ 1/2% less. When gas prices go up, more people will ride the bus. FY11 had all time high of gas prices in the US, which hover $3.50 to $4.00 range the whole last half of the year and there is not a corresponding increase in ridership. Why are we loosing riders? Ken is requesting TC a goal to get the ridership back up to the benchmark of 1.5 million which is 3 1/2% over the year that we just finished. Paul stated that he feels the 3 reasons for the decrease in ridership is due to adequate record keeping with new fareboxes; fewer routes; and the system is broken and unreliable. Paul feels that once the Transit Master Plan is implemented and with proper funding the ridership will increase and will go beyond Ken P.'s goal.

• Status **on RFPs - buses, roof and marketing:**

1. Buses - Yuri stated that bus bids have closed. Norman stated a request in to the bus vendors to qualify there pricing and cost analysis. Vendors have been selected but the first set of vendor information was not complete due to not meeting the cost analysis.
2. Transit garage roof - Yuri stated that the bid closed. All of the bids came in higher than the budget for the project. The bids are being released and Building Safety and an engineering firm are handling some of the technical details and expect the new bids to be within budget.
3. Marketing - Yuri stated that Urban Trans is in the process of working on the maps and branding and working with the steering committee.
4. **Shelter** - Yuri stated that the bid closed and using ARRA and CDBG and CIP funding.
5. **AVL** currently writing a bid to release using CIP funds for this year.

• Title **VI:** Yuri stated that they have received communication from FTA last Friday which listed the issues that need to be addressed in the plan. There are seven issues: 5 are editing details; and 2 are substantial for more details on public participation plan and a service fare analysis. FTA is requesting a summary of public outreach and involvement activities undertaken since the last Title VI submission and a description of steps taken to ensure low income and minority people has had and will continue to have access to these activities. To include fare equity analysis for the fare change in July 2010 with the change in monthly and yearly fares. Yuri will move forward in resubmitting the Title VI program which TC reviewed and add in the points that FTA identified. Tom stated that he requested documentation of all of the correspondence from FTA regarding Title VI. Tom spoke with the City Communication Officer, Dawa Hitch, to obtain the information and the Assistant City Attorney will review. Due to attorney-client privileges, Martha stated that she approved and should be forthcoming to Tom and TC shortly.

Public Comment Part II: None

Announcements:

November 1, 2011 Agenda Items

1. What to do to apply pressure to FTA to expedite Title VI. - Paul
2. Bus Advertising - next steps.
3. Framework on transit project - conception to completion
4. Swannanoa Bus Shelter

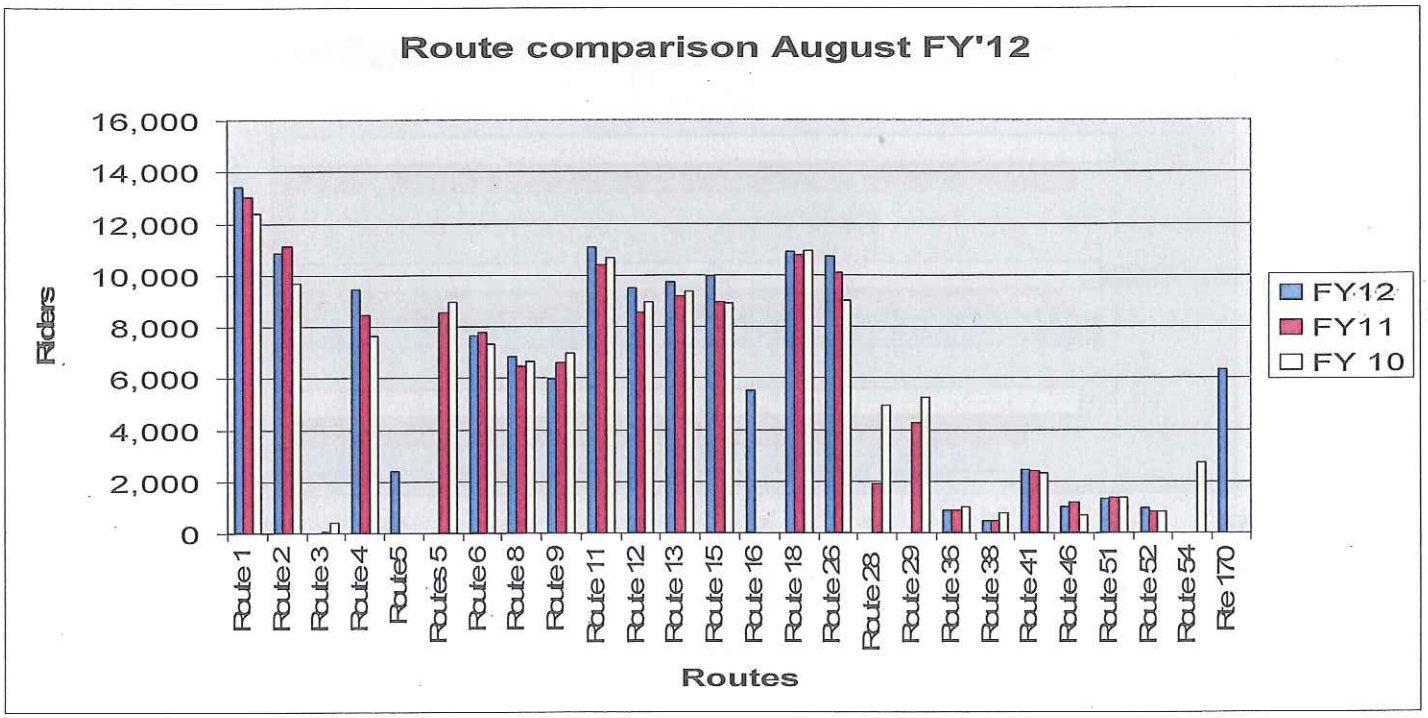
Meeting Summary:

- Solicitation for request from public to be incorporated into next month's meeting agenda.
- Discuss agenda items for next TC meeting.

Paul adjourned at 6:00 pm

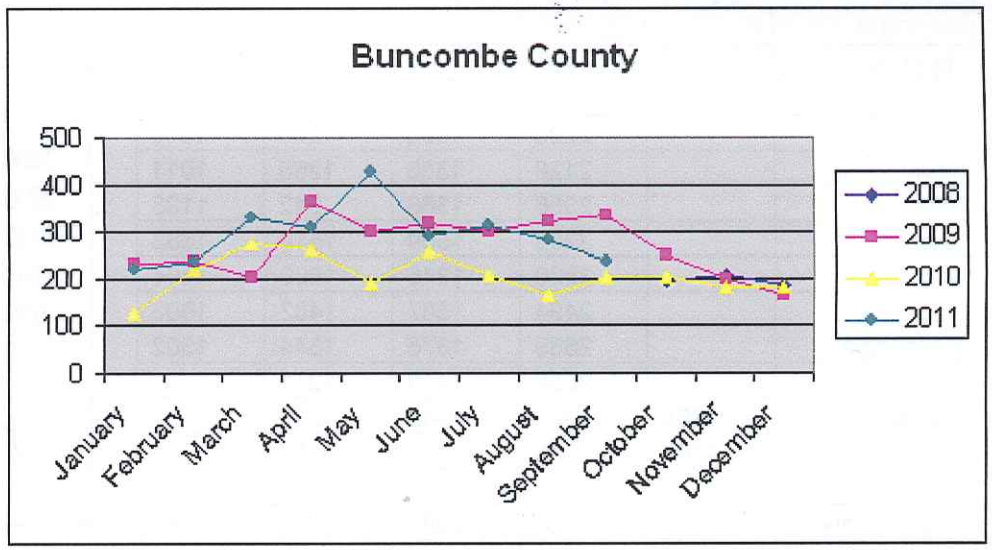
Route Ridership-August, FY11-12 - Asheville Transit System

	Current Month				Fiscal Year to Date			
Route	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta
1	13,427	13,010	417	3%	25,515	25,346	169	1%
2	10,868	11,126	(258)	-2%	20,393	21,153	(760)	-4%
3		30	(30)	-100%	-	30	(30)	-100%
4	9,446	8,431	1,015	12%	17,709	16,419	1,290	8%
5	2,416				4,572	2,962		
5 & 16		8,526	(8,526)	-100%	6,803	16,199	(9,396)	-58%
6	7,622	7,772	(150)	-2%	13,337	13,636	(299)	-2%
8	6,840	6,472	368	6%	12,949	13,250	(301)	-2%
9	5,982	6,596	(614)	-9%	15,685	16,040	(355)	-2%
11	11,067	10,409	658	6%	19,068	18,587	481	3%
12	9,507	8,522	985	12%	18,265	17,443	822	5%
13	9,740	9,185	555	6%	18,822	17,910	912	5%
15	9,959	8,942	1,017	11%	14,777	14,612	165	1%
16	5,529				14,103	9,158		
18	10,879	10,777	102	1%	19,934	20,011	(77)	0%
26	10,712	10,098	614	6%	10,712	11,578		-7%
28		1,886	(1,886)	-100%	-	5,870	(5,870)	-100%
29		4,232	(4,232)	-100%	830	5,066	(4,236)	-84%
36	877	837	40	5%	1,481	1,366	115	8%
38	459	472	(13)	-3%	2,721	2,854	(133)	-5%
41	2,461	2,393	68	3%	3,401	3,536	(135)	-4%
46	1,005	1,177	(172)	-15%	2,130	2,328	(198)	-9%
51	1,298	1,360	(62)	-5%	1,883	1,842	41	2%
52	927	819	108	13%	927	819	108	13%
170	6,319		6,319		11,292	-	11,292	
Totals	137,340	133,072	4,268	3%	257,309	258,015	(706)	0%

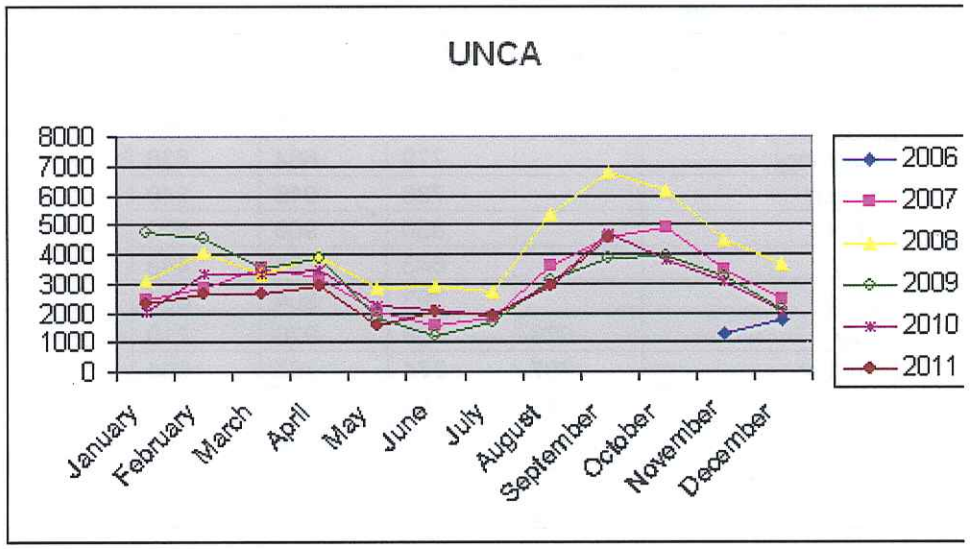


Ridership Comparison
Riders
160,000
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
July
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
Ma
Jun
FY12
FY 11
FY'10

Buncombe County				
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
January		231	127	221
February		236	222	238
March		204	275	329
April		366	264	311
May		302	189	430
June		319	259	294
July		301	208	313
August		324	167	283
September		334	203	236
October	195	251	205	
November	209	199	184	
December	187	165	183	
Year Totals	591	3232	2486	2655
Overall Totals	**8964**			

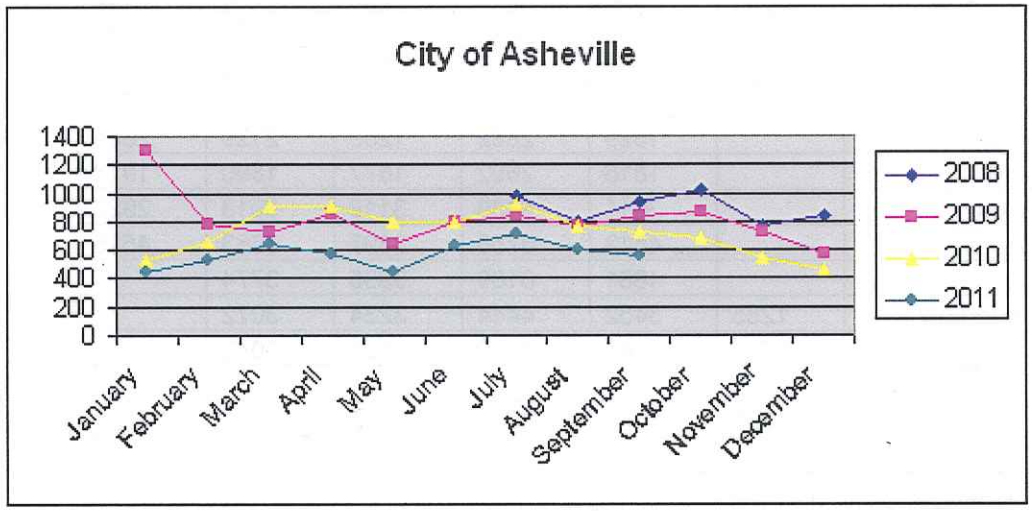
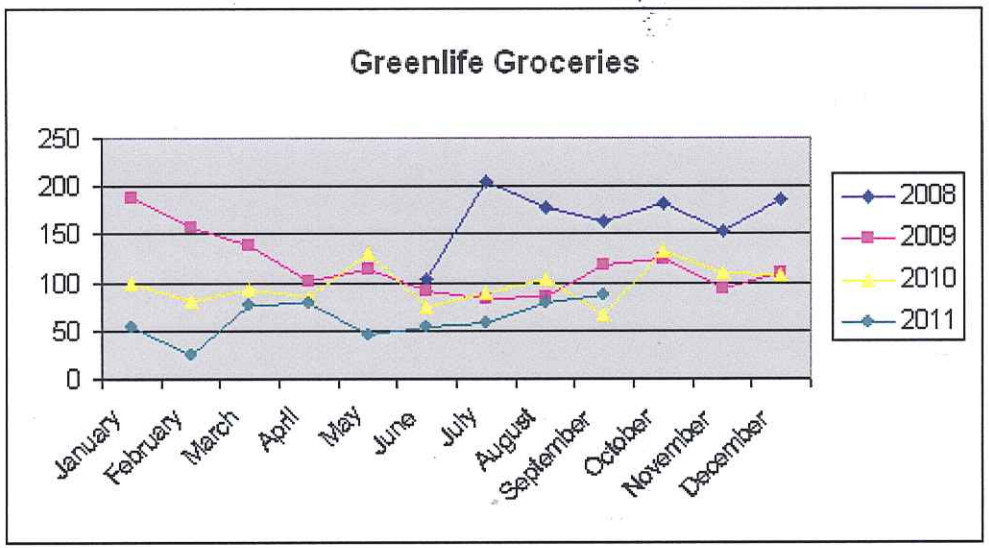


UNCA						
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
January		2433	3140	4777	2020	2326
February		2860	4041	4562	3346	2652
March		3536	3346	3554	3335	2662
April		3163	3906	3891	3433	2888
May		2010	2870	1803	2248	1582
June		1529	2882	1253	2129	2055
July		1816	2692	1677	1890	1918
August		3611	5336	3118	3013	2923
September		4512	6755	3897	4663	4515
October		4881	6169	3935	3774	
November	1285	3452	4444	3234	3072	
December	1754	2443	3649	2124	2042	
Year Totals	3039	36246	49230	37825	34965	23521
Overall Totals	**184826**					



Grove Park Inn					
	2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
January		1993	1592	913	1137
February		2156	1198	1119	1238
March		2225	1305	1205	1375
April		2128	1386	1268	1011
May		2356	1366	942	1133
June		2298	1509	1610	1383
July		2520	1345	1609	1404
August		2494	1387	1432	1603
September		2659	1376	1344	1302
October		2552	1410	1231	
November	1268	1863	1042	1217	
December	1969	1676	1167	1112	
Year Totals	3237	26920	16083	15002	11586
Overall Totals	**72828**				

City of Asheville				
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
January		1306	530	448
February		779	664	536
March		733	916	640
April		850	906	570
May		643	794	449
June		793	804	635
July	976	838	926	710
August	797	774	767	604
September	940	844	733	558
October	1018	873	680	
November	770	735	545	
December	835	575	458	
Year Totals	5336	9743	8723	5150
Overall Totals	**28952**			



Greenlife				
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
January		188	100	54
February		156	80	25
March		138	94	77
April		101	85	79
May		113	131	46
June	103	90	75	54
July	205	82	88	57
August	177	84	103	79
September	164	117	66	86
October	181	125	133	
November	152	93	110	
December	185	109	107	
Year Totals	1167	1396	1172	557
Overall Totals	**4292**