

## **Asheville Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 7 October 2014-Draft**

### **Attending:**

Committee Members: Julie Mayfield, Dave Erb, David Wilson, Steven Obremski, Bruce Emory, Tom Tomlin, Calvin Allen, Gwynn Simpson, Adam Charnack

City/ART Staff: Norman Schenck, Gregg Godwin, Mariate Echeverry, Yuri Koslen, Martha McGlohon

Community Members: Roy Harris, Erik Peake

### **3:34 pm - Opening of Meeting**

Julie opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, especially new TC members Charlton Owens (in absentia) and Gwynn Simpson. Julie requested one changes to agenda (MMTC appointment process). Steven moved, Bruce seconded, unanimous acceptance of agenda.

2 September 2014 Minutes - Tom moved, Bruce seconded, unanimously approved.

Adam read the meeting announcement.

### **3:39 pm - Public Comment I**

Roy Harris has ridden the bus for one year now, has noticed Asheville High School students using the bus. He looks forward to Sunday service and Route C improvements. Roy would appreciate new drivers being trained to open the rear door.

### **3:43 pm - TC Experiences Riding the Bus**

Tom rode E2, it was tight but on time; W3 was late going out, but made up time before the next full run. Gwynn has had calls from Warren Wilson staff requesting additional service with 170. David W. rode E1, it was very full, and tends to be delayed but poorly informed passengers taking extra driver time. Adam has ridden N, experiences generally good, but NextBus had problems. Julie rode S2; also commented on marquee messages (e.g. "Ride with Respect") on Atlanta's buses. Julie has noticed good courtesy from new drivers. Dave E. rode N1/N2, generally on time. Bruce rode N1/N2, generally good, but with some NextBus problems. Yuri explained root (and correction) of NextBus problems. Calvin rode N3, generally good. Steven rode E1/E2/N1/N2, has noticed some regression of NextBus services; feels that station announcements also leave a lot to be desired.

### **3:51 pm – New Business**

Paratransit Application and Guide - Gregg has updated the forms, with focus on mobility levels rather than specific impairments; added requirement of a verification letter from a health care professional or social service provider. He's working to streamline the application process and open more channels for application. Julie requested that Gregg develop a template for the application. He is still working on a no-show policy, due to unresolved questions of efficacy and fairness.

Proposed Paratransit Service Area Changes - City exceeds ADA requirements; Gregg is researching budgetary impacts of tighter restrictions, will provide recommendations when he has them.

November Meeting Cancellation - November TC meeting will be cancelled, due to TC retreat being held 9:00am-3:30pm on 24 Oct. Scheduled meeting with drivers will still be held; TC members need to RSVP.

### **4:27 pm – Old Business**

Sunday Service and Route C - Sunday service starts 4 Jan 2015, with route changes starting the next day. Staff has identified routes and trips for Sunday service, has also defined W5 and S5 routes that will replace C (S5 will also run Sundays). Hours changed to 8:00am-6:00pm, per survey results. Several minor changes are being made to various routes to allow smoother transfers, eliminate unproductive portions (by using deadheads and/or bypasses), and aid schedule reliability. Bruce, Julie, and Adam requested extra effort to publicize details of the changes, especially on the affected buses. Adam has a concern with bus rider wayfinding at the airport.

TC Goals - Policy Subcommittee met, will submit a document to TC this year. Survey Subcommittee reviewed results, only real surprise related to fare preferences.

MMTC Update - Bruce reported that MMTC approved two new TC members and agreed to close an alley in Montford. Asheville in Motion Symposium will be held in U.S. Cellular Center 9:30am-12:30pm on 25 Oct. MMTC has formed a Sidewalk Subcommittee, to help City prioritize neighborhood sidewalk projects. David W. raised an issue of Title VI compliance (demographic makeup) of MMTC. Discussion ensued.

Just Economics Transit Campaign cookout - A good time was had by all.

### **5:07 pm – Staff Updates**

Bus Stop Improvements - Lakeshore stop will get an ADA bench as part of sidewalk construction. Whole Foods on Tunnel Road has a new shelter.

Monthly Reports - Bruce raised concern about high prevalence of early trips. Staff is investigating, and will mention the topic in drivers' meetings. Steven requested better titles on Public Stuff complaints. Stats include NextBus usage and regular vs. discounted passes.

Mariate reported that City has decided to exercise the option to extend First Transit's contract. Norman will be moving up in the company, so ART will get a new general manager.

### **5:23 pm – Public Comment Part II**

none

### **5:23 pm – Agenda Items for Next TC Meeting (2 December 2014)**

### **5:23 pm – Meeting Adjourned**