



ASHEVILLE TRANSIT COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 3 2015

1st Floor Conference Room

City Hall

RIDE.RELAX.CONNECT

3:30 pm - Meeting Opening

- Welcome announcement and explanation of public comment standards and opportunities
- Introductions
- March 3, 2015 Agenda - review and approval
- February 3, 2015 – review and approval

3:45 pm – Public Comment Part I

3:50 pm – TC transit experiences in riding the bus

3:55 pm – New Business

- Welcoming Brooke German and Ed Johnson – new TC members - Julie

4:05 pm – Old Business

- TC Goals Progress Report - group discussion
 1. Expanding Service – County, Super Service Pilot Project
 2. Increase Funding – business engagement, Friends of Transit, new funding options
 3. Marketing and Education – ads, Facebook, new outlets, funding for marketing staff
- Policies for riders/drivers/ART – Yuri
- Groceries on bus - Calvin
- Advocacy on transit priorities with Council – Julie

4:30 pm – Staff updates

- List of Projects – (attached) - Mariate
- ART monthly Reports: Public Stuff, Accident Summary; Safety Report, Ridership, - attached
Rose Christian

4:45 pm - Public Comment Part II (5 minutes)

4:50 pm - Discuss agenda items for next Transit Committee Meeting (5 minutes)

5:00 pm - Meeting Summary

- Announcements, events, transit commission members' involvement related to transit
- Solicitation for request from public to be incorporated into next month's meeting agenda
- Adjourn

Additional material on above agenda items may be available at the Transit Committee meeting. Past meeting minutes and meeting documents can be found at: www.ridetheart.com and click on "Transit Committee"

DRAFT

Asheville Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 3 February 2015

Attending:

Committee Members: Julie Mayfield, Adam Charnack, Bruce Emory, Calvin Allen, David Wilson, Tom Tomlin, Charlton Owens
City Staff: Ken Putnam, Yuri Koslen, Greg Godwin, Rose Christian, Martha McGlohon, Gwen Wisler
Community Members: Tim Sadler, Laurel Thomas, Jared Kay

Julie opened the meeting at 3:30.

Jan. 6, 2015 Minutes

Bruce moved approval and Tom seconded. David moved and Julie seconded an amendment to delete the words "or unwilling" from the first paragraph dealing with the December minutes; passed unanimously. David proposed two other amendments, but both died for lack of a second. Original motion passed by voice vote.

Public Comment I

Laurel Thomas would like to see more frequent bus service.

Tim Sadler suggested including the encouragement of transit use by employees as a criteria for green certification programs such as B Corp. He also suggested that developers include transit passes for residents, as was done recently for the proposed apartments on Hazel Mill Road.

TC Experiences Riding the Bus

Tom rode new routes S5 and W5, and was impressed with the ridership; S5 was overcrowded.

David commented on the difficulty of using S3 from the Airport, given the long headway. He also said that making a transfer from E2 to W3 is difficult on the first morning trip.

Adam commented on high ridership on W5, and on W1 (bus had to skip some stops).

Julie commented favorably on the new drivers on her routes since the January schedule change.

Bruce cited the need for enforcing no smoking in the area near the dispatcher's parking area at the ART Station. He also commented on discrepancies and incomplete information in the timetables regarding Sunday schedules. Calvin commented on good ridership despite inclement weather.

New Business

New Committee Members:

Julie reported that two of the prior candidates are no longer interested: Inkwa Ewart and Ulla Reeves.

Committee members commented on and expressed their preferences among the remaining six candidates, with the following result: 4 votes each for Brooke German and Ed Johnson; two votes for Mary Topper; one vote for Lauren Noto. Julie will contact the two top candidates to confirm their interest, and will inform the Committee by e-mail, so that a recommendation can be made to the MMTC prior to their Feb. 25th meeting.

Mobile Ticketing:

Ken Putnam described a potential new method for fare payment utilizing smart phones, similar in some ways to the Passport parking fee system that the City has used for the last three years. After discussion, the Committee endorsed a six-month pilot program for the new system (Adam moved, David seconded).

Old Business

e-cigarettes:

Martha reviewed the legal status of regulating smoking and e-cigarettes, and presented a draft City ordinance that would impose the same restrictions on e-cigarettes as on regular cigarettes. Bruce moved and Tom seconded that a motion endorsing the proposed ordinance.

Meeting Minutes:

Adam suggested, and the Committee concurred, that in the interest of saving time, any member who wants to

amend the minutes of the prior meeting should send out the proposed amendment by e-mail prior to the next meeting, or at least be prepared with specific wording for the amendment.

Transit Committee Goals:

Charlton introduce Jared Kay, with Amplified Media, a company that produces TV/video commercials. After discussion of the types of products that might be applicable for transit marketing, and a description of the current funding constraints, Jared agreed to prepare a proposal for a range of possible products.

Yuri described the City Communications staff's position concerning Facebook pages: the pages must state that they are not official City media.

No major progress reported on other goals.

Groceries on bus:

Subcommittee will meet next Thursday.

FY16 Transit Priority Setting:

Yuri described a handout with additional information that the Committee had requested. The Committee agreed to lobby City Council members individually to encourage them to approve funding for the top priority items. Bruce will contact Marc Hunt and Gordon Smith; Adam will contact Jan Davis; Calvin will contact Gwen Wisler; Julie will contact Esther Mannheimer; she will contact Tom and Charlton (who had to leave early) to determine who will contact Cecil Bothwell and Chris Pelly.

Policies:

Julie reported on progress in developing a comprehensive list of policies regarding riders and drivers. The final draft should be presented to the Committee in March or April.

Staff Updates

The staff reports were included in the package, but were not reviewed in detail due to the late time. Yuri reported that Sunday ridership is increasing steadily.

Agenda Items for Next TC Meeting (3 March 2015)

- New members, if needed
- Transit Committee Goals
- Policies for riders/drivers/ART
- Groceries on bus
- Advocacy on transit priorities with Council

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

**Transportation Planning Division
Project update
February 25, 2015**

On-going

- **RADTIP**
 - Design contract is underway.
 - Consultants are expected to deliver 25% complete design plans within 1 month;
 - Final design expected in January 2016.
 - ROW purchase to begin in 2015 through 2016.
 - If all goes according to plan construction could begin as early as 2017.
 - The design process for RADTIP is ongoing. Consultants delivered a preliminary design of the greenway portions of RADTIP. Those designs are under review. Staff and consultants are also reviewing the possibility of modifying the preliminary design to include protected bike lanes. No decision has been made. The target date to begin right of way acquisition is July of 2015. The start of construction is targeted for 2017.

- **East of the Riverway Transportation Network Plan**
 - Looking for MMTC recommendation to adopt the plan.

- **JARC Signals Design contract**
 - Locations:
 - Louisiana & Haywood Rd
 - McDowell & Choctaw
 - South Charlotte & Biltmore
 - Consultant has finalized the cost estimates for the remainder of the intersections.
 - Ped signals – awaiting additional funding approval to advertise Haywood Rd/Louisiana Avenue and Choctaw/McDowell signals, preparing Biltmore/Southside-S. Charlotte as a capital project.
 - Working with FTA on a budget amendment, which will allow to use additional funds originally funding administrative tasks on this project.

- **Asheville in Motion Plan.**
 - Charrette scheduled from March 10-14, 2015.

- **French Broad River Greenway** (Duke Energy property) and connection between FBR Park and Carrier Park
 - On going

- **ISO 14000 - ART**
 - Desk review with no findings.

- **Charlotte Street**
 - This project has been delayed until FY16.

- **ADA restructuring**
 - Public meetings to announce the changes and need to recertify on February 26..

New

- **Transit Station repairs**
 - Working with CIP group in scope of work

Other efforts

- **TIGER VI grant application**
 - Awarded and going through the steps to sign the grant agreement.
- **Clingman Forest and Town Branch Greenways and Depot Street Roundabout**
 - No updates.
- **Beaucatcher Greenway**: drawings are progressing in terms of certain portions of the construction documents being completed but staff is still working out some right-of-way questions before consultant can progress further.
 - Open house on February 26 from 10a-12p – Public Works A-109.
- **Haywood Rd.** Multimodal Improvements (led by Robert Kun in PW). Preliminary striping for lane shift and bike lane complete. Produced AutoCAD drawing for artwork and sent to involved party. Go-ahead from Legal that the condemnation process is to the point that they can proceed with the project. Met with sidewalk art group to discuss design, materials and locations of artwork. They have received the encroachment agreement from NCDOT. Staff received the encroachment agreement from NCDOT. The project has been put on hold in order to allow cyclists' access to Waynesville Ave while the Craven Street project is finished. No additional updates.
 - Craven Street project is holding up any progress on Haywood Road. Meetings scheduled to discuss sidewalk art. Work will likely not begin until spring. Preliminary striping for lane shift and bike lane is complete.
 - A total of 20 on-street parking spaces have been proposed from Riverview Drive to Avon Avenue on the West side of the road. Met with property owner and designer concerning on-street parking. Created Engineer's Estimate for additional parking and related work. Renewed right-of-entry with one property owner; dropped off form for the other one.
 - Work will not begin until spring. Preliminary striping for lane shift and bike lane complete.
- **Hendersonville Rd.** sidewalk (led by John Gavin in PW).
 - Finalizing easement acquisitions. Lack three signatures. Two should be signed in a week or two. One parcel (JRN property) is headed toward condemnation. The appraisal has been complete, and sent to the owner for consideration. If we have not heard from them (JRN) by March 1st, condemnation papers will be filed.

- **Craven St.** (led by McCray Coates in PW).
 - Construction activities continue to move along. The arch culvert has been installed and the road is now open between Waynesville Ave. and Georgia Ave. Work is currently taking place between Waynesville Ave. and Hazel Mill, this section of roadway is closed and is expected to be closed until spring, the roadway in this section is nearing finished elevation. The rough grading for the greenway is taking place with the sewer line is completed. The fill for the LID parking lot is in with continued work on the sidewalk and stone placement in the parking lot. The reconfiguration of Hazel Mill Road and Emma Road had taken place and is open to traffic currently. The water line construction is moving forward with and is expected to be completed by April.

- **New Haw Creek Sidewalk:**
 - Recommendation given by NCDOT. New plans and estimated have been made based on recommendations and presented to Ken Putnam. Have rough estimated on pedestrian bridge and are exploring options.

- **Shiloh Road Sidewalk Project:** Construction is complete.

- **Lake Craig/Azalea Road Improvements:** Construction of the project is in its final stages. It is with excitement that the new traffic patterns are in place. The major components of the project are complete with some additional work in the area of the stream bank necessary. NCDOT has constructed the turning lanes and the traffic signal signals are functioning. The final stages of the water connections should be made over the next 4-6 weeks. The project is expected to be total complete by early March