

Asheville Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 5 August 2014

Attending:

Committee Members: Dave Erb, David Wilson, Bruce Emory, Tom Tomlin, Julie Mayfield, Itiyopiya Ewart, Steven Obremski, Adam Charnack

City/ART Staff: Ken Putnam, Yuri Koslen, Norman Schenck, Gregg Godwin

Community Members: Tim Sadler, Mark Barrett

3:34 pm - Opening of Meeting

Julie opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Iti read the meeting announcement.

1 July 2014 Minutes - Iti moved, Dave seconded, unanimously approved.

3:38 pm - Public Comment I

Tim Sadler requested a time frame for having First Transit's responsibility for Transit Center restroom cleanliness formally addressed, wants to know if the Transit Committee will be taking a formal position on renewal of First Transit's contract, and expressed a desire that funding be provided to improve the condition of the hardware in the restroom. Norman clarified that First Transit does basic cleaning ("maid service") for the facilities, but has no control over capital improvements (painting, plumbing, etc.). Graffiti removal is considered basic cleaning. Julie stated that the Committee will not be taking a formal position on the contract.

3:49 pm - TC Experiences Riding the Bus

Tom has ridden N (good) and E1 (late). David Wilson had a close call with the mirror of an incoming bus hitting a downspout at the Transit Center. Iti has experienced many delays, especially with N3 at Hillcrest, resulting in missed connections. She also missed buses due to film rerouting, got incorrect information from both NextBus and the dispatchers (three times). Iti and Julie commented on good customer service from new drivers. Julie has heard requests to move trash cans farther from benches at Transit Center. Dave Erb had good rides on N1 and N2. Bruce has had good experiences, but NextBus estimates later than actual arrival times for N1. Steven reports that NextBus is accurate now for E2; but he had a new driver who consistently forgot to open the back door. Adam reported incorrect announcement on N regarding need for transfer; also lack of sufficient cigarette disposal capacity (or insufficient frequency of emptying) at Transit Center. David Wilson also reported water running through the inside of the Transit Center during heavy rains.

4:04 pm – New Business

Rules of Procedure - no questions or comments. Bruce moved, Tom seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

Julie presented Iti with a plaque for her service on the occasion of Iti's leaving to pursue her doctorate. Iti stated her appreciation for the TC's (especially Julie's) and City Staff's support in helping her find her new path. TC opening will be reposted to add names to the existing pool of candidates, to close by 27 August, with discussion at September meeting.

Steve nominated Adam for Vice Chair. David Wilson seconded, and expressed interest in serving in the position himself at a later date. Adam accepted the nomination. Unanimous vote for Adam.

4:21 pm – Old Business

Julie requested that TC members respond to Doodle poll for goals meeting. Yuri will send out draft of "policy on

policies" document (to cover firearms, smoking, etc.) in advance of meeting.

Tom reported a confrontation between a driver and a rider over transfer policy. Ken requests that TC consider and make recommendation of best way to address the issues raised by this incident. Tom is concerned with opportunities for fraud and stress on drivers, suggests that signs be posted stating that transfers will only be issued upon bus entry. Gregg has investigated day pass usage in other systems; cost is usually two to three times the single ride fare. Bruce reported that limiting transfer receipt to during bus entry is fairly widespread in the industry. Extensive discussion, no resolution reached.

MMTC Update - Bruce reported that MMTC endorsed a grant application related to RAD developments. Four names were recommended to City Council for MMTC membership (Till Dohse, Steven Obremski, John Ridout, and Mike Sule). Till or Bruce will represent MMTC on Project Advisory committee.

4:57 pm – Staff Updates

Yuri announced public meeting 4:00-7:00pm on Wednesday, 20 August at Municipal Building. Topics will include fare changes, Route C changes, and Sunday service; will be publicized through numerous standard channels, including IRide. TC presence requested; Tom, Bruce, and David Wilson expressed interest in attending.

NextBus LCD display (interior of Transit Center) is in final form, LED (exterior) display still has a number of issues. Public Info office wants ART to hold off on press release until everything is working properly. Utilization of all NextBus information streams was high during June.

Shelters, tires, depot fence, new bus stop signs, schedule/map printing aren't shown on project list, but are in process.

Ridership is up, significantly so for Passport participants. Ken challenged the TC and MMTC to reach 1.5 million rides during FY2014-15.

5:20 pm – Public Comment Part II

none

5:20 pm – Agenda Items for Next TC Meeting (? September 2014)

candidates for vacant TC position
Sunday service, Route C
regular updates: goals, MMTC, staff reports
schedule TC retreat

5:22 pm – Meeting Adjourned