

## **Asheville Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 2 September 2014 (v.2) - Draft**

### **Attending:**

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

City/ART Staff: Norman Schenck, Gregg Godwin, Yuri Koslen, Jeff Moore, Mariate Echeverry, Derek Hennessee

Community Members: Gwynn Simpson, Rich Lee, Darlene Hamlin

### **3:36 pm - Opening of Meeting**

Julie opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. No meeting announcement was read. No changes to agenda.

5 August 2014 Minutes - Bruce moved, Tom seconded, unanimously approved.

### **3:38 pm - Public Comment I**

none

### **3:39 pm - TC Experiences Riding the Bus**

Tom rode N, all was smooth. David Wilson was present when a rider had a seizure on 14 August, commends staff response. Julie has had no experiences worth noting. Dave Erb has ridden N1 and N2, no problems. Bruce has ridden N1, N2, E1; will bring up minor issues separately with Yuri. Calvin riding E1, everything is fine. Adam has experienced some lateness; has been using NextBus to advantage.

### **3:43 pm – New Business**

Open TC position - Julie suggested that TC send up two recommendations to MMTC. Members discussed various candidates and issues (geographic diversity, non-elective riders, demographics), then advanced their top two. Gwynn Simpson and Charlton Owens will be recommended to MMTC.

Retreat - Julie suggests making sure that new member can attend at least one TC meeting before retreat. Mariate recommends holding retreat before Thanksgiving. Julie will take a Doodle poll for October and November dates.

S4 Route - Tom described on-time performance problems and overcrowding with S4, mentioned timing changes which had unintended consequences with A-B Tech students, requested higher level of service (extra trips) during selected peak morning and afternoon hours. In light of the fact that Route C changes took over a year, Tom is particularly concerned about getting improvement process underway sooner, so that they can occur in concert with the upcoming January 2015 changes to other routes. Yuri and Julie have had conversations with A-B Tech, who proposed a \$100K contribution for extra service, but the budget item wasn't approved by Buncombe County Commission. Julie sees this situation as a prime opportunity for public-private partnership, and would like to continue pressing the conversation with A-B Tech. Adam would like any TC discussion of added frequency to push for a high fraction of the day's trips, not just a few trips at peak hours.

5303 Planning Grant - Mariate will be going to Council next week with two grants (Yuri's transit planning position and an apprentice/internship position). Adam moved, Bruce seconded a motion to endorse the grant request; passed unanimously.

### **4:25 pm – Old Business**

Sunday service / Route C - Surveys are complete. Yuri and Greg presented results. Budget will allow about 70 bus hours each Sunday. Yuri suggests that the most obvious Sunday routes would be the existing holiday routes, possibly with some minor changes driven by survey data (and AVL data, once they're available). Holiday and Sunday hours will be switched to 9:00am-7:00pm (from present 8:00am-6:00pm window). Surveys revealed some fairly clear data concerning fares. Staff's next step will be to firm up a few remaining operational details on Route C replacement. Julie requested that TC receive details as soon as they're firm, in order that we can help communicate them.

TC Goals update - Julie will set up meetings of two subcommittees.

Policy Development - Derek Hennessee (representing the drivers' union) emphasized that any policy changes need to come to the drivers through the contract. Julie clarified that the existing documents aren't final, but are steps along the way to better communications with the public, and that any inconsistencies between the policy document and the contract need to be resolved before anything is published (intent of document is to communicate policy, not create it).

MMTC - Most recent meeting had nothing directly concerning transit, though "Walk Your City" (wayfinding), bicycle parking, and sidewalk prioritization have indirect relevance to TC. Possible date for Multimodal Plan meeting is 25 October.

#### **5:04 pm – Staff Updates**

Yuri gave a quick synopsis of bus stop improvements and small route changes.

Disability Pass Eligibility - Greg described process improvements intended to make process easier for applicants and staff. General intent was to be at least as inclusive as FTA and ADA requirements.

Operational changes - Phone message follow-up has been improved (entry into Public Stuff with immediate response). Changes relating to maps, driver identification (signs vs. name tags), LED signs, NextBus are in process.

Projects - Yuri commented on new shelters from ARRA funds, transit center repairs.

Reports - Ridership up on all but college routes (summer break). Holiday ridership improved year over year.

#### **5:22 pm – Public Comment Part II**

none

#### **5:23 pm – Agenda Items for Next TC Meeting (7 October 2014)**

TC retreat, Sunday service / Route C, TC goals update, MMTC update

Just Economics Transit Campaign cookout (food, music, fellowship) will be held at Triangle Park Saturday, 6 September at 3:00pm; all TC members are invited.

#### **5:24 pm – Meeting Adjourned**