

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: December 3, 2007

Subject: Update on Transit Blue Route Funding

Attachments: Yes

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

It appears that details have been worked out to fund the Blue Route through the end of the FY08 (June 30, 2008). On November 8, 2007 the Hendersonville City Council appropriated an additional \$22,231 to fund the Blue Route for the current fiscal year. In addition, NCDOT staff informed county staff on November 27, 2007 that NCDOT will ask the State Board of Transportation to fund the Blue Route for the remainder of the fiscal year (minus Hendersonville's additional appropriation of \$22,231 and fare box revenues). This arrangement will restore the county's original budgeted revenues for the operation of the Blue Route for the remainder of the fiscal year.

This will be the last fiscal year Henderson County receives the "Inter-City Grant" funding and the operation of the Blue Route will occur through use of increased federal grant funds that will become available during FY09.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letter to be forwarded to Miriam Perry, Public Transportation Director.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letter to be forwarded to Miriam Perry, Public Transportation Director.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

100 North King Street
Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792-5097
Phone 828-697-4808 • Fax: 828-692-9855
TDD: 828-697-4580
www.hendersoncountync.org

BILL MOYER
Chairman
CHARLIE MESSER
Vice-Chairman

LARRY YOUNG
MARK WILLIAMS
CHUCK McGRADY

December 3, 2007

Re: Henderson County Public Transit

Miriam Perry, Public Transportation Director
Public Transportation Division
North Carolina Department of Transportation
State Transportation Building, 5th Floor
1 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601-1494

Ms. Perry:

I would like to thank you for your cooperation in finding a solution to continue operation of the "Blue Route" for the Apple Country Transit System. This important route links Hendersonville and Fletcher to the regional airport and the Asheville Transit System. It serves as the only way for many people to reach their workplace, UNC-Asheville, the Asheville Airport and the Veterans Hospital in Asheville.

It is my understanding that on November 27th, Joe Melvin communicated to Henderson County Planning Director Anthony Starr that your staff intends to request the N.C. State Board of Transportation fund the "Blue Route" of our system (Apple Country Transit) through June 30, 2008 (minus \$22,231 and fare box revenues). I write this letter as a follow-up to those conversations and to confirm Henderson County's commitment to the continued operation of the Blue Route linking Hendersonville and Asheville. It is our understanding that the "Inter-City" grant funding will terminate June 30, 2008. Henderson County intends to use Federal Section 5307 grant funds to operate the Blue Route for FY09 and beyond.

Mr. Melvin also indicated that he would be in touch with Anthony Starr the week of December 3rd to work out the exact amount needed to fund the Blue Route for the remainder of this fiscal year. Once the Board of Transportation approves the funding, please inform myself or Anthony Starr of the Board's approval in writing.

Again, thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you or your staff have any questions please contact Planning Director Anthony Starr at 828-697-4819.

Sincerely,

Bill Moyer, Chairman
Henderson County Board of Commissioners

cc. Mr. Joe Melvin, NCDOT
Mr. Tom Herman, NCDOT
Anthony Starr, Planning Director