

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: May 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Schedule a Public Hearing Regarding a Proposed Fare Increase and Service Hour Decrease for Apple Country Transit

PRESENTER: Anthony W. Starr, AICP, Planning Director

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Fare Schedule

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Staff requests that the Board of Commissioners schedule a public hearing regarding proposed changes to Apple Country Transit Services. To offset increased costs associated with a new three-year operations and maintenance contract and to accommodate a 7.5% reduction in County matching funds, staff proposes an increase in transit fares and elimination of one hour of service from the schedule for all three routes between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for the transit system.

The proposed fare schedule is shown in the attached table. The fare increases will likely yield additional annual revenues of approximately \$8,195 to support existing services. Elimination of transit services during the last hour of the day between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. would save approximately \$10,755 in local costs.

Annual ridership is estimated to decrease by approximately 26%, which would adjust the number of annual one-way trips from 94,000 to 69,560. Elimination of one hour of service could result in a ridership loss of 5,000 one-way trips annually. According to national standards, the fare increase may result in a temporary decrease in ridership of 21%. WCCA increased fares on the bus service in 2006 resulting in a decrease of approximately 7% for four months.

Federal law requires local governments to hold a public hearing prior to increasing fares or decreasing transit service. The proposed service adjustments comply with Federal Transit Administration Regulations.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Planning Staff requests that the Board of Commissioners schedule a public hearing regarding a proposed fare increase and decrease of service hours for June 6, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board schedule a public hearing regarding the proposed fare increase and decrease of service hours for Apple Country Transit on June 6, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Apple Country Existing and Proposed Fare Schedule

FARE	Existing Fare Schedule for FY 2011 (Last Changed April 2006)	Proposed Fare Schedule effective July 1, 2011
Cash Fare	75 cents	\$1.25
Half Fare for Seniors and Medicare Card Carriers	30 cents	60 cents
Children under 5	Free	Free
Paratransit service (no more than twice Fixed Route Fare)	\$1.25	\$2.50
One Trip Pass Book (20 tickets)	\$10	\$20
Monthly Pass	\$15	\$30