

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**December 10, 2020**

**Members Present:** Emily Scott-Cruz, Hope Prather, Jacki Hawkins, Janna Peterson, Jimmie Brissie, Noah Henderson, Suzanne Sherrill, Terri D’Avanzo, Time Jones, and Trina Stokes.

**Members Absent:** Autumn Radcliff, Bernard Clarke, and Tim McFalls.

**WCCA Staff Present:** Jeff Roper, Felicia Sanchez and David White.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Jeff Roper, Transportation Program Manager, opened the meeting at 10:00 am. He introduced himself and announced that Bill Crisp retired on August 31, 2020. Felicia Sanchez, Transportation Program Assistant Manager, introduced herself.

Jeff thanked everyone for their willingness to participate on this board as we work together to help and serve the people of our community.

Suzanne Sherrill welcomed everyone to today’s meeting.

**Minutes of December 10, 2020 Transportation Advisory Board Meeting:**

Suzanne Sherrill called for discussion, additions or corrections to the minutes. There was none. The chair called for a motion to approve. Janna Peterson motioned to approve. Terri D’Avanzo seconded. The minutes are approved as submitted with an all in favor roll call vote.

**Update NCDOT:**

- There were no NCDOT representatives present.

**Update from French Broad River MPO, Emily Scott-Cruz reported:**

- We are in the middle of our Regional Feasibility Study “Public Engagement” phase. Thank you for sharing the information on the study website. The study will remain open for public comment until December 18, 2020. We will also be hosting a two-hour virtual public meeting along with our consultant on December 15, 2020.
- 5310 (Elderly and Disabled), JARC (Jobs Access Reverse Commute) and Planning are open for “Calls for Projects” until December 31, 2020. This allows different municipalities to present ideas for projects like pedestrian plans, safety plans, greenway studies, etc. to us for possible funding in FY 2022.
- We are making progress on our Hendersonville Road corridor study. We hosted a few public engagement sessions in October and November.
- Our Hellbender Regional Trail study has concluded and is processing.

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***Update from Henderson County, Jenna Peterson, reported:***

- Six new busses are on their way to Apple Country Transit. We expect a staggered delivery with all the busses being delivered by the end of January 2021.
- We installed five new bus stop shelters and are currently working on updating signage.
- We are participating in the FBMPO Regional Study and are looking forward to seeing the results.

***Update from Apple Country Transportation “ACT”, reported:***

***Jeff Roper***

- We are excited to get the new busses and we appreciate all the hard work that Jenna has put into working through that process. The new busses will be greatly appreciated as we have had a lot of repairs and downtime due to the age of the current fleet.
- WCCA has continued to operate during the pandemic. We have a crew that comes in every night to clean and sanitize our vehicles. We have installed clear shields around our drivers and they have been provided disinfectant sprays, wipes, masks, gloves, etc. We have masks available for clients that need them and we are asking people to socially distance on the busses. Currently we have not had anyone contract the virus. It seems that everyone is taking the spread seriously and are doing everything they can to protect one another.
- Kuddos to Felicia and Bonnie for working with clients and reminding them that if they are symptomatic that they need to reschedule their activities whenever possible to avoid exposing others.

***Felicia Sanchez***

- We have been able to continue to supplement our ROAP program with CARES funding.
- We submitted three grants at the end of November.

***TAB Member News:***

➤ ***Suzanne Sherrill, Council on Aging, reported:***

- The Council on Aging partners with Apple Country for transportation to the Sammy Williams Senior Center.
- Meals on wheels is currently delivering five frozen meals once a week to clients. This reduces exposure for the client and volunteers.
- “Shoe Boxes” for the elderly have been coming in for the holidays.
- Thank you to everyone for all that is being done for our community.

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- ***Jimmie Brissie, H Co Emergency Services, reported:***
  - He appreciated the opportunity to sit down with Jeff Roper last week to talk about what emergency management does and how it interacts with the other agencies to maximize that we all can do to support our community.
  - Henderson County has seen Covid cases triple due to holiday gatherings. Unfortunately, that is expected to continue through January. There is hope with the development of vaccines that we can get ahead of the virus but we do have more hard weeks coming. Please pay attention to the three W's – wash hands, wear masks, wait six feet apart – This seems simple but it works. Don't let your guard down just because it is the holiday season. Use good judgement. More information will be coming over the next few weeks about vaccine availability. Check the CDC website for vaccine site information updates.
  - “Thank you” for all the community support with housing emergency workers at local hotels, transportation, etc. Our community has really come together during this pandemic to take care of each other. Quick “shout out” to BRHS for their great job managing this.
  
- ***Trina Stokes, Advent Health, reported:***
  - Through her time at the Council on Aging, she became aware of the transportation needs of our community and appreciates being asked to join. She is attending today's meeting to evaluate the scope of this board to determine if she is the best person to fill this seat or if someone else at Advent would be a better position to serve.
  - She is thankful for the team we have in our community and looks forward to working with this board regarding the challenges patients face getting to and from medical services.
  
- ***Jackie Hawkins, Blue Ridge Health, reported:***
  - BRHS is trying to determine who the most appropriate employee is to participate in this board.
  - BRHS has had several free drive thru Covid testing events. We have had success with this identifying folks so that they can self-quarantine and not spread the virus.
  - We have resumed our in office services with full time employees that screen people as they enter the building. We are doing car side visits with clients that present with symptoms.
  
- ***Terri D'Avanzo, Vocational Rehabilitation, reported:***
  - Quick overview: We are a state agency that focuses on working with individuals with disabilities to find jobs. They have places approximately 10 people within the last two months. Currently the majority of their intake is done over the phone and via USPS.

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- Terri thanked WCCA for working through the pandemic as most of their clients utilize ACT services.

➤ ***Tim Jones, Hendersonville Rescue Mission, reported:***

- The mission is a public feeding program and homeless shelter for men, women and children. We are continuing to provide shelter to people and we continue to use ACT to help our folks work towards self-sufficiency. It is taking longer to get folks moved into their own place due to Covid. We have seen a few folks go over the last few weeks so we are no longer at maximum capacity.
- Everyone that comes in has to have a Covid test. We are very grateful for the volunteer doctors that have come down and done testing for our overnight clients that just need out of the cold.
- We are serving six meals a day to keep housed vs walk in clients separated and safe from the virus.
- We are appreciative of the busses that are still running helping our folks get to their jobs and medical appointments.
- We are blessed and very grateful for our community.

➤ ***David White, CEO, WCCA, reported:***

- We are very grateful that the new busses will be arriving soon. The old fleet was getting quite worn down. One of the new bus shelters was placed outside the WCCA Administration Building. It looks nice and folks really appreciate being able to get out of the weather.
- WCCA is looking seriously at working with LogistiCare on a Medicare transportation contract. We are looking at new CST software that would allow us to link to LogistiCare, which will make working with them easier.
- ACT will be doing Medicaid transportation beginning July 1, 2021.
- In January, WCCA expects to receive 20 new "mainstream" vouchers. These vouchers are aimed at clients with disabilities. These new vouchers will move 20 families off our regular waiting list, which will in turn move 20 families up on the waiting list.
- WCCA has opened a new thrift shop. It is called Bargain Hendo and it is located at 201 North King Street. All the proceeds will go to support WCCA programs. We welcome any donations. Please stop by and shop.

Jeff thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and for all that is being done to support the community. He reminded everyone that the meeting schedule for the following year is listed on the agenda and asked that everyone please mark their calendars.

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***Next Meeting Date:***

The next meeting date was set for Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM. We will meet virtually until further notice.

***Adjourn:***

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

*Nodh Rose*