

Members Present: Adam Olenik, Daisy O’Conner, Kenett Melgar, Lee Stevens, Noah Rose, Shannon Perry, and Victoria Cortes. (7)

Members Absent: Alicia Evans, Brandi Claybrooks, Cheri Matthews, Janna Bianculli, Peggy Allen, Richard Reagan, and Stefanie Walton. (7)

WCCA Staff Present: David White, Kevin Clark, Tim Camp and Kim Hall. (4)

Guests Present: Kim West, Paul Moon (2)

Welcome and Introductions:

Noah Rose opened the meeting at 10:01 am by welcoming everyone.

Public Comments: None were proffered.

Minutes of Transportation Advisory Board Meeting:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. Shannon Perry moved to approve the minutes. Victoria Cortes seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved as submitted.

WNCSource Transportation Directors Report, Tim Camp:

- Reviewed schedule changes/cancellations caused by the recent winter weather.
- Reviewed the WNCSource five-year strategic plan goals for the Transportation department. The three main objectives are: Increase funding sources, align resources to meet county goals (increased ridership/reduce route times/increase routes), and add a CDL driver training program.
- WNCS has extended our hours and are working to update policies and procedures to reflect this change.

WNCSource Assistant Directors Report, Kevin Clark:

- WNCS has been involved in three major accidents on our fixed routes. We were not found to be at fault. One accident in January resulted in a bus being totaled. The other bus is still in the evaluation process. In the latest accident a drunk driver ran a red light and hit us head on. No passengers or staff were seriously injured.
- Repairs to CNG buses are expensive and qualified mechanics can be difficult to find. If the fuel system is involved the repairs have to be completed by a CNG certified repair facility. The closest one is in Charlotte.
- Fleet maintenance costs continue to rise as our vehicle age.

WISH Program: Kim West, Paul Moon

Paul Moon from Land of Sky introduced the WISH Collaborative, which is dedicated to improving housing and transportation for individuals with high support needs. They emphasized the importance of including these individuals on transportation advisory boards and discussed ongoing efforts to develop rider training programs and a statewide resource guide for transportation services. Paul also mentioned the Transportation Alliance's initiatives to improve cross-boundary transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities. The PowerPoint slides are available on the TAB webpage.

Transportation advocate, Kimberly West, emphasized the necessity of having individuals with lived experience on transportation advisory boards to better address the needs of those with high support needs. She outlined initiatives such as rider training programs and a resource guide for county transportation services

TAB Member News:

- Lee Stevens, Henderson County
 - Share a link to the FTA's guidelines on paratransit eligibility
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/civil-rights-ada/frequently-asked-questions#2>
 - Reviewed the current pilot programs of extended services hours and Fare free riding for both fixed route and paratransit services. Both pilots are currently set to run through the end of this fiscal year (06/30/25). The county commissioners would have to approve extending this.
 - Asked members to start making plans to participate in the “Strive to Not Drive Week” coming up in May. Details to follow.
 - The County is working to get a new paratransit van into service. The old van will be used as a spare.
- Adam Olenik, Thrive
The Clubhouse’s - Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program, which serves adults with mental health diagnoses, is currently accepting new clients. The program focuses on community engagement through various social activities.
- Daisy O’Conner, FBMPO
New member, Daisy O’Conner, introduced herself. FBMPO is the regional transportation planning agency for our part of western North Carolina, covering Madison, Henderson, Haywood, Buncombe and a section of Transylvania counties. FBMPO helps prioritize local transportation, funding and transportation projects.

Other Business:

Noah called for any other business. None was proffered.

Adjourn: Noah called for a motion to adjourn. Shannon Perry so motioned. Kim Hall seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 10:00 am. We will meet virtually until further notice.

Transit Advisory Board Members

Board Leadership

Noah Rose, Chair	Retired	Board Chair
Victoria Cortes, Vice Chair	Henderson Cty Emergency Services	Emergency Management Planner
Kim Hall, Secretary	WNCSource	Executive Assistant
Tim Camp	WNCSource	Transportation, Facilities & Safety Director

General Board

Adam Olenik	Thrive	Clubhouse Manager
Alicia Evans	Council on Aging	Assistant to ED
Brandi Claybrooks	NCDOT	Transportation Program Consultant
Cheri Matthews		Transportation Client
Daisy O'Conner	Land of Sky Regional Council	Transportation Planner II
Janna Bianculli	Henderson County Planning Dept	Senior Planner
Kenett Melgar	Blue Ridge Community Health	Vulnerable Populations Manager
Lee Stevens	Henderson County Planning Dept	Planner III
Peggy Allen	The Hope Center of Hendersonville	Executive Director
Richard Reagen	WNCSource Board Member	Volunteer
Shannon Perry	WNCSource Board Member	Self Employed – Content/Copywriter
Stefanie Walton	IAM	Food Procurement Director
David White	WNCSource	CEO
Bonnie Wilson	WNCSource	Transportation Support Specialist
Kevin Clark	WNCSource	Assistant Transportation Director