

## Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute an Agreement with the City of Asheville for Transportation Funding

**MEETING DATE:**

February 3, 2015

**REQUESTED BY:**

Buncombe County Planning and Development  
Denise Braine for Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager and Planning Director

**Background Information:**

Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation System, began operating the Black Mountain Trailblazer route in December 2002. Ridership in 2002 was 1,300 trips; ridership in FY 2015 is expected to exceed 12,000 trips. Passengers include low-income and other individuals who travel on the Trailblazer bus to their jobs in the area or to a transfer point where they access the City's ART route and travel to jobs in Asheville. The route also serves seniors and other citizens and includes service to Blue Ridge Apartments senior housing complex, Blue Ridge Assembly, Lakeview Senior Center, Carver Community Center, Highland Farms, Swannanoa Medical Center, Black Mountain Center, Montreat College, and other locations along the established route.

Buncombe County has received grant funding for this route from a variety of funding sources over the years, and since 2011, has received federal operating funds through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program. Having expended funding under two previous JARC grants, the County applied for and was awarded a third JARC grant in the amount of \$115,381, which will enable Mountain Mobility to continue operating the Black Mountain Trailblazer service through December 2016. Funding for the JARC program flows from the FTA to the City of Asheville, its designated recipient for these funds, then to the County as a subrecipient.

*A copy of the Black Mountain Trailblazer brochure is attached. Additional information about Mountain Mobility and all Trailblazer routes is available at [www.buncombecounty.org/transportation](http://www.buncombecounty.org/transportation).*

<p><b>Pro's</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows Mountain Mobility to continue to operate the Black Mountain Trailblazer for two more years.</li> <li>• Provides access to employment opportunities in the Black Mountain, Swannanoa, and Montreat areas.</li> <li>• Provides access to grocery stores and other community services for seniors and other citizens.</li> <li>• Provides link to ART bus service.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Con's</b></p>
<p><b>Funds required:</b></p> <p>The JARC grant requires a 50% match, which will be provided through passenger fares, through existing funds allocated in the Fund 30/Transportation budget, and through local contributions by the Town of Black Mountain (\$20,000/year or \$40,000 total).</p>	
<p><b>Alternatives:</b></p> <p>There are currently no other federal or state funding options to support the operation of this route.</p>	
<p><b>Action recommended:</b></p> <p>Adopt a resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute an agreement with the City of Asheville for funding under the JARC Program.</p>	

# Black Mountain Trailblazer Route

Operating Monday - Saturday



**GET ON BOARD!**



## Serving Locations in Black Mountain:

- Ingles Shopping Center
- Amazing Savings/Goodwill
- Craigmont Rd
- Blue Ridge Apartments
- Montreat College
- Connections to ART Route 170

**New Schedule Effective March 2013**

## How To Ride

**Waiting for the Trailblazer:** Always be at a safe location along the route at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival time. The driver may need to leave the roadway in order for you to get on board. Be sure to flag the driver as the bus approaches.

**Fares and Riding the Trailblazer:** Each ride costs \$0.50, which must be presented when you board. Please have the exact fare, the driver does not have change. Please make your way to a seat and we require the use of a seat belt! There is no eating, drinking, or smoking allowed on the bus, and you must remain seated while the bus is in motion. Drivers are not allowed to assist with packages or shopping bags, so please only carry what you can handle in your seat.

**Exiting the Trailblazer:** Let the driver know where you are going when you board the bus. Pull the bell cord to alert your driver in advance of your requested stop. Wait until the vehicle comes to a complete stop, and never cross the street in front of the bus.

**Accessibility:** Each Mountain Mobility Trailblazer is lift equipped and wheelchair accessible. Your driver is trained to assist and secure your wheelchair. Front seats on the vehicle are reserved for the elderly or handicapped, and service animals are always welcome.

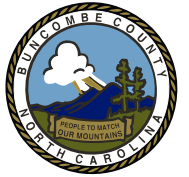
**Route deviations:** The Trailblazers will deviate up to 1/4 mile off the regular route upon customer request. Call 250-6750 (option 1) by 5:00pm the business day before to request a deviation.

**All Trailblazers are monitored:** To report unsafe conditions, call 828-250-6750 ext 6. Each Mountain Mobility vehicle is equipped with a four-camera video and audio recording system for the safety and security of the driver, passengers, and public.

## Customer Services

Call Customer Services at 828-250-6750, Option 1, 828-252-4085 TDD, if you need additional assistance or information.

The County of Buncombe does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Materials are available in alternate formats upon request.



# Black Mountain Trailblazer Route

LEGEND	
	Regular Service
	Timepoint
	Points of Interest
	Park & Ride
	Transfer Point
	Interstate
	US Highway
	State Highway

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Design by Smartmaps, Knoxville, TN



## BLACK MOUNTAIN TRAILBLAZER • MONDAY – FRIDAY SCHEDULE

TIMEPOINT		AM TRIPS			PM TRIPS		
1 SunTrust Bank	—	6:30	8:00	11:00	2:00	3:00	6:00
2 Black Mountain Ingles	—	6:35	8:05	11:05	2:05	3:05	6:05
3 Blue Ridge Assembly Dr	—	6:42	8:12	11:12	2:12	3:12	6:12
4 Blue Ridge Apartments	—	6:50	8:20	11:20	2:20	3:20	6:20
5 Amazing Savings/Goodwill	—	6:55	8:25	11:25	2:25	3:25	6:25
6 Old US 70 at Lake Eden Rd	5:50	7:00	8:30	11:30	2:30	3:30	6:30
7 Old US 70 at Tabernacle	—	7:04	8:34	11:34	2:34	3:34	6:34
8 Tabernacle at Craigmont Rd	—	7:06	8:36	11:36	2:36	3:36	6:36
9 W State St at Craigmont Rd	6:05	7:10	8:40	11:40	2:40	3:40	6:40
10 Montreat College	6:15	7:18	8:48	11:48	2:48	3:48	6:48
1 SunTrust Bank*	6:30	7:30	8:55	11:55	2:55	3:55	6:55

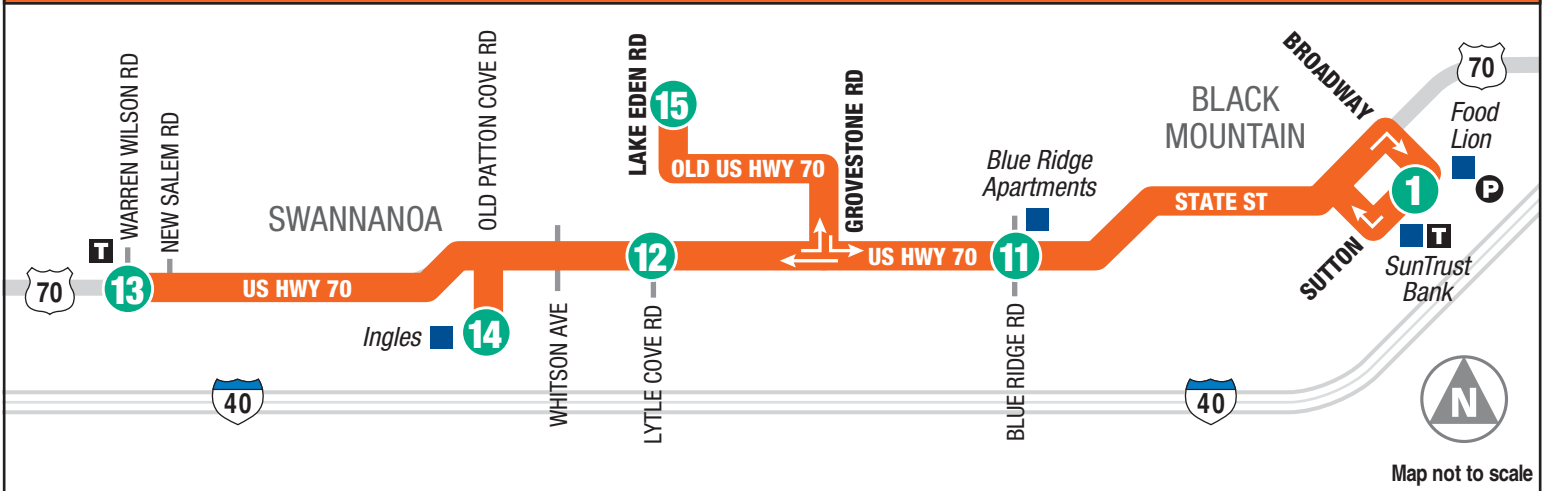
\* ART Route 170 connects at SunTrust Bank at 6:30am and 7:40am

## BLACK MOUNTAIN TRAILBLAZER • SATURDAY SCHEDULE

TIMEPOINT		AM TRIPS				PM TRIPS			
1 SunTrust Bank	—	6:30	8:00	9:00	11:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	6:00
2 Black Mountain Ingles	—	6:35	8:05	9:05	11:05	1:05	2:05	3:05	6:05
3 Blue Ridge Assembly Dr	—	6:42	8:12	9:12	11:12	1:12	2:12	3:12	6:12
4 Blue Ridge Apartments	—	6:50	8:20	9:20	11:20	1:20	2:20	3:20	6:20
5 Amazing Savings/Goodwill	—	6:55	8:25	9:25	11:25	1:25	2:25	3:25	6:25
6 Old US 70 at Lake Eden Rd	5:50	7:00	8:30	9:30	11:30	1:30	2:30	3:30	6:30
7 Old US 70 at Tabernacle	—	7:04	8:34	9:34	11:34	1:34	2:34	3:34	6:34
8 Tabernacle at Craigmont Rd	—	7:06	8:36	9:36	11:36	1:36	2:36	3:36	6:36
9 W State St at Craigmont Rd	6:05	7:10	8:40	9:40	11:40	1:40	2:40	3:40	6:40
10 Montreat College	6:15	7:18	8:48	9:48	11:48	1:48	2:48	3:48	6:48
1 SunTrust Bank*	6:30	7:30	8:55	9:55	11:55	1:55	2:55	3:55	6:55

\* ART Route 170 connects at SunTrust Bank at 6:30am and 7:40am

## Black Mountain Trailblazer Route – ART Connector



### ART CONNECTOR SCHEDULE

MONDAY – SATURDAY	PM TRIPS ONLY	
1 SunTrust Bank	4:00	7:00
11 US Hwy 70 at Blue Ridge Rd	4:05	7:05
12 Lytle Cove Rd	4:10	7:10
13 US Hwy 70 at Warren Wilson Rd*	4:30	7:30
14 Swannanoa Ingles	4:35	7:35
15 Lake Eden Rd	4:40	7:45
11 US Hwy 70 at Blue Ridge Rd	4:45	—
1 SunTrust Bank	4:55	—

\* ART Route 170 connects at Warren Wilson Road and US Hwy 70 at 4:20pm and 7:20pm

### INSTRUCTIONS

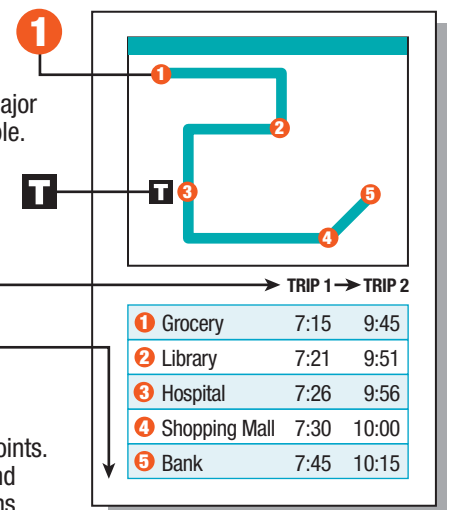
The bus stops here at the listed times. Look for the matching symbol in the timetable. Numbers on the map represent major stops; other stops are also available.

The transfer point shows where routes intersect and transfers to other routes may be available.

Bus trips are listed from left to right in the timetable.

The bus travels to the locations listed from top to bottom of the timetable.

The bus may stop between timepoints. Times are approximate and depend upon traffic and weather conditions.



### Mountain Mobility – Provider of Safe, Caring, and Responsive Public Transportation Services

Mountain Mobility was established by Buncombe County in 1989. Although the system originally was designed to serve the transportation needs of a few human service agencies, the system has grown to serve a wide variety of organizations, as well as provide general public transportation services.

Over 50 drivers, dispatchers, and other staff are employed to provide transportation services. All Mountain Mobility drivers receive thorough training in defensive driving, special needs assistance, first aid, adult and infant CPR, and other areas. Each driver must have a good driving record and be familiar with Buncombe County's roads and highways. All drivers have clean criminal background checks and must pass ongoing drug and alcohol screening programs.

**Our mission is to serve the transportation needs of Buncombe County's residents. We look forward to serving your public transportation needs!**



Mountain Mobility • 2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17 Asheville, NC 28804

Phone (828) 250-6750 • (828) 252-4085 TDD  
Fax (828) 252-0367

[www.buncombecounty.org/transportation](http://www.buncombecounty.org/transportation)