

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## The City of Asheville's Transit Master Plan Implementation & Buncombe County Considerations

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

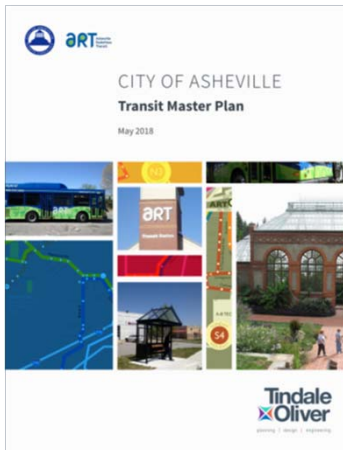
**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## The City of Asheville's Transit Master Plan (TMP)

The TMP is the guiding document for the City of Asheville's transit system (ART), shaping how and where bus service is provided, and providing a vision for long term service expansion and infrastructure needs.



2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA

**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

---

## The TMP Process

- Original Transit Master Plan (TMP) Adopted** (October 2009)
- Asheville City Council Resolution to update TMP** (September 2017)
- Steering Committee Formation** (October 2017)
- Steering Committee Meetings** (October 2017 to June 2018 (5))
- Community Workshops** (November 2017 (2))
- Discussion Group Workshops** (November 2017 to January 2018 (5))
- Online & Paper Surveys** (November 2017 to January 2018)
- On-Board Surveys of ART Passengers** (December 2017)
- Meeting with Local Stakeholder Groups** (March to April 2018 (2))
- Draft TMP Presented to Public & Transit Committee** (March 2018)
- Final Draft Plan Released** (May 2018)
- Final Draft TMP Presented to Transit Committee, MMTC, and City's Planning & Economic Development Committee** (May and June 2018)
- Asheville City Council Adoption** (July 2018)
- Implementation Scheduled to Begin** (July 2019)

Table 3-1: TMP Public Engagement Activities

| Date       | Activity                                                                                  | Stakeholders |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 10/20/2009 | Steering Committee #1 Kickoff                                                             |              |
| Throughout | Website and Social Media Presence                                                         |              |
| 11/9/2017  | Community Workshop #1                                                                     |              |
| 11/17/2017 | Discussion Group Workshops – Higher End (UNC, AS Tech, Warren Wilson)                     |              |
| 11/17/2017 | Community Workshop #2 (Maine West Community Center)                                       |              |
| 11/17/2017 | Discussion Group Workshop – ART Staff                                                     |              |
| 11/17/2017 | Discussion Group Workshop – Mountain Community (MMTC, Mission)                            |              |
| 12/2018    | On-Board Survey Administration                                                            |              |
| 12/11/2017 | Discussion Group Workshop – Older Adult Groups (AAFC, Council on Aging, Lord of the Aged) |              |
| 1/16/2018  | Discussion Group Workshop – Community Orgs. (Just Economics, People's Transit Campaign)   |              |
| 1/16/2018  | Draft Transit Routing Recommendation Packet                                               |              |
| 1/24/2018  | Public Meeting #1 – Draft Plan Presentation and Discussion                                |              |
| 1/27/2018  | Transit Committee Presentation – Draft Plan                                               |              |
| 1/28/2018  | Presentation to Multimodal Transportation Committee – Draft Plan                          |              |
| 1/28/2018  | Meet with Local Stakeholder Groups                                                        |              |
| 4/24/2018  | Draft Transit Master Plan packet                                                          |              |
| 4/24/2018  | Draft Plan Feds to Website                                                                |              |
| 4/24/2018  | Steering Committee Meeting #5 – Review Draft Plan                                         |              |
| 4/24/2018  | Meet with Local Stakeholder Groups                                                        |              |
| 4/25/2018  | Present Draft Plan to MMTC                                                                |              |
| 5/1/2018   | Community Transportation Advisory Board Update                                            |              |
| 5/9/2018   | Final Public Comments Due                                                                 |              |
| 5/10/2018  | Transit Committee Review of the Final Draft Plan                                          |              |
| 5/10/2018  | MMTC Review of Draft Final Plan                                                           |              |
| 5/16/2018  | Present Draft Final Plan to Planning and Economic Development Committee                   |              |
| 6/14/2018  | Steering Committee #5 – Draft Final                                                       |              |
| 6/18/2018  | Public Meeting #2 – Draft Final Plan                                                      |              |
| 7/2/2018   | Present Draft Final Plan to City Council                                                  |              |

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA

**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

---

## The TMP Steering Committee

- Elias Mathes, **City of Asheville** Transit Planning Manager
- Vaidila Satvika, **City of Asheville** Transportation Planning Manager
- Scott Barnwell, **City of Asheville** IT Services
- Ashley Traynum-Carson, **City of Asheville** Communications
- Kimberlee Archie, **City of Asheville** Equity Manager
- Adam Charnack, **City of Asheville** Transit Committee Chair
- Sabrah N'haRaven, **City of Asheville** Transit Committee Member & People's Transit Campaign Representative
- Terri March, **City of Asheville** Multimodal Transportation Commission Vice-Chair
- Bernadette Townsend, **ART** General Manager

- LaShawn Abraham, **ART** Supervisor
- Jim Palkovic, **ART** Bus Operator & ATU Union Representative
- Ernest Weston, **ART** Bus Operator
- Amy Cantrell, **Just Economics & People's Transit Campaign** Representative
- Michael Wackerly, **AARP** Representative
- Garrett Male, **Mission Health** Representative
- Daniel Sellers, **NC DOT** Transportation Planning Branch Representative
- Lyuba Zuyeva, **French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization** Director
- Tristan Winkler, **French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization** Staff
- Matthew Cable, **Buncombe County** Planner III

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Buncombe County Involvement

- ✕ Participate in the preparation of the RFP and scope of work, review and selection of the consulting firm, and development of the work program
- ✓ Participate as representative on the Steering Committee
- ✓ Participate in a portion of the cost of the TMP (for study of extensions of ART service beyond City limits)

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## TMP Implementation by the City of Asheville

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Buncombe County Considerations

City of Asheville TMP Implementation Impacts on:

- Trailblazer Routes
- ADA Complementary Paratransit Service  
(Buncombe County is the contracted provider for City of Asheville ADA Complementary Paratransit Services)
- Budgets
- Grants

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Implementation Schedule

*Table 7-1: Phased Implementation Schedule*

| Fiscal Year →                 | 2020                                 | 2021                                   | 2022                                   | 2023                                         | 2024                                                                       | 2025                                                  | 2026                                                                       | 2027    | 2028    | 2029    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Peak Fleet →                  | 19                                   | 21                                     | 24                                     | 26                                           | 28                                                                         | 30                                                    | 32                                                                         | 34      | 35      | 36      |
| <b>NEW ROUTES</b>             | IMPLEMENT TRANSIT ROUTING CHANGES    | Crosstown 1 (north-south)              | Enka-Candler via Broadway              | McDowell to Sweeten Creek                    |                                                                            | Carrier Park & Swannanoa River Rd<br>Downtown Shuttle | Service Extensions based on development and location of affordable housing |         |         |         |
| <b>FREQUENCY IMPROVEMENTS</b> | Extend Saturday and Sunday Hours     | Increase S3-S6 Frequency to 60 minutes | Increase E1 Frequency to 30 minutes    | Increase Crosstown 1 Frequency to 30 minutes | Increase W1 Frequency to 30 minutes<br>Allocate Service based on Ridership |                                                       | Demand-based Service Improvements (ridership/community needs/congestion)   |         |         |         |
| <b>Planning + Capital</b>     | Maintenance Facility Expansion Study | Maintenance Facility Design Build      |                                        |                                              | Master Plan Major Update                                                   |                                                       |                                                                            |         |         |         |
| <b>Fares</b>                  | Fare Free Weekend Trial              | Review Fare Impacts with Council       | Prepare for Fare Change Implementation |                                              | Implement Fare Changes                                                     |                                                       |                                                                            |         |         |         |
| <b>Service Hours</b>          | 117,994                              | 130,404                                | 149,019                                | 161,429                                      | 173,839                                                                    | 193,914                                               | 200,119                                                                    | 212,529 | 218,734 | 224,939 |

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Implementation Year 1: FY 2020

- Combine W3 & E2 into Crosstown 2
- Combine W4 and E1 into Crosstown 4
- Route 170 schedule modifications
- Interline N1 and N2 routes with S4
- Increase S4 frequency to 30 minutes
- Extend service hours on all routes to 10:30 p.m. (Sundays/Holidays)
- Extend service hours on all routes to 10 p.m. (Weekdays/Saturdays)
- Expand service to operate 365 per year (Thanksgiving/Christmas)
- Continue late night service on key corridors until 12 midnight
- Fare Free Weekend Trial for entirety of FY 2020

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

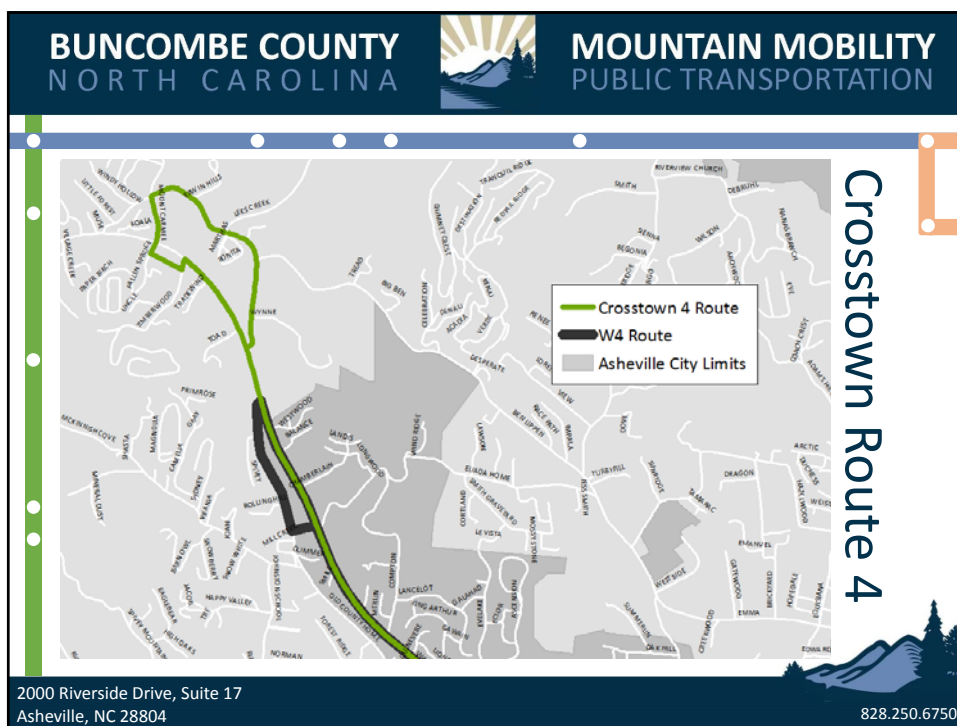
## Crosstown Route 2 & Route 170

Enka Candler (ECTB) & Black Mountain Trailblazer (BMTB) Possible Impacts as ART Schedule Changes Impact Transfers

- Routing/scheduling changes to continue ART connections
- Administrative costs for updating brochures, maps, and schedules
- Operating costs increase associated with runs needed to continue ART connections
- Operations contract rates and maximums renegotiation if additional runs needed
- Additional grant funds not identified to accommodate additional runs needed

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Crosstown Route 4 Impacts

- Extension of ART service further north along Leicester Highway (beyond city limits) to serve Ingles and the Erwin schools area (exact routing to be determined)
- City of Asheville FY 2020 estimated request for \$62,657\* from Buncombe County to support the ART Crosstown Route 4 Extension
- ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Area expansion/trip volume increase

**Crosstown Route 4**

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Impacts

- Operate longer service hours (Sundays/Holidays)
- Operate additional days of service (Thanksgiving/Christmas)
- Operate expanded service area (extension of existing routes)
- Operate additional volume of service during additional days/hours
- Operate additional volume of service on fare free weekends
- Operations contract rates and maximums renegotiation if additional service needed
- Operations contract rates and maximums renegotiation if service design changes
- ADA Complementary Paratransit Contract rate increase for City of Asheville

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Implementation Year 2: FY 2021

- Create Crosstown 1 (N/S crosstown route via Merrimon Ave/Biltmore Ave/Hendersonville Rd)
- Additional bus routes on S3/S6 to increase frequency on Hendersonville Rd

## Implementation Year 3: FY 2022

- Create ART Enka-Candler route to serve area within City limits not currently served by ART
- Create new route to Weaverville via Broadway

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



ART Enka-Candler Route

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## ART Enka-Candler Route Impacts

- Enka Candler Trailblazer (ECTB) Possible Impacts from New ART Route
- Routing/scheduling changes to continue ART connections
- Administrative costs for updating brochures, maps, and schedules
- Operating costs increase associated with runs needed to continue ART connections
- Operations contract rates and maximums renegotiation if additional runs needed
- Additional grant funds not identified to accommodate additional runs needed, if runs are needed; service reduction could result in potential loss in grant funds
- ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Area expansion/trip volume increase

ART Enka-Candler Route

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

Slide 1 of 2





## ART Enka-Candler Route Impacts

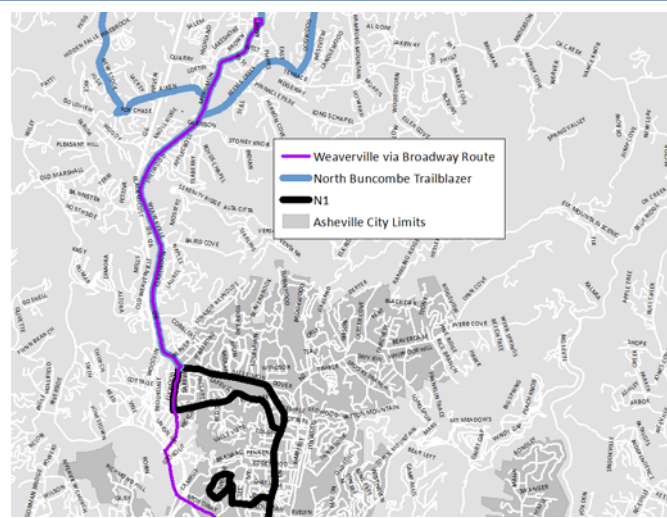
### Enka Candler Trailblazer (ECTB) Considerations

- Consider expansion of ECTB service (days/hours with City participation) to remove need for ART expansion
- Consider eliminating portion of existing service/re-evaluate service area
- Consider fare structures and impacts on citizens/riders at time of implementation

Slide 2 of 2

 2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750



ART Weaverville via  
 Broadway Route

 2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750






## ART Weaverville via Broadway Impacts

### North Buncombe Trailblazer (NBTB) Impacts

- Routing/scheduling changes to continue ART connections
- Administrative costs for updating brochures, maps, and schedules
- Operating costs increase associated with runs needed to continue ART connections
- Operations contract rates and maximums renegotiation if additional runs needed
- Additional grant funds not identified to accommodate additional runs needed, if runs needed; service reduction could result in potential loss in grant funds
- City of Asheville FY 2022 estimated request for \$257,960\* from Buncombe County and \$121,778 from Weaverville to support the ART Weaverville via Broadway Route
- ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Area expansion/trip volume increase

Slide 1 of 2

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750






## ART Weaverville via Broadway Impacts

### North Buncombe Trailblazer (NBTB) Considerations

- Consider expansion of NBTB service (days/hours with City participation) to remove need for ART expansion
- Consider eliminating portion of existing service that duplicates/re-evaluate service area
- Consider fare structures and impacts on citizens/riders at time of implementation

Slide 2 of 2

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Implementation Year 4: FY 2023

- Create Sweeten Creek route to serve area within City limits not currently served by ART

## Implementation Year 6: FY 2025

- Carrier Park and Swannanoa River Rd route to serve area within City limits not currently served by ART
- Downtown Shuttle to provide greater mobility in the CBD

## Implementation Year 7: FY 2026

- To be determined based on future service demands (ridership, community needs, congestion, etc.)

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## County Extensions Studied

- Extensions into County specifically identified by City of Asheville
- City of Asheville RFP Required Extension Study Areas:
  - Weaverville/Woodfin
  - Erwin
  - Enka Candler
  - Reynolds
  - Shiloh
  - Beaverdam
  - Fairview
- Extensions provided using the ART system with funding provided by partners for service performed outside City limits
- Partners could decide to implement routes independent of City

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## County Extensions Studied

City of Asheville RFP Required Extension Study Areas:

- Weaverville/Woodfin: Recommendation ART Weaverville via Broadway Route
- Erwin: Recommendation Crosstown Route 4 Extension
- Enka Candler: Recommendation ART Enka-Candler Route (serving only City limits)
- Shiloh: No recommendation for extension, new service, or flex route
- Beaverdam: No recommendation for extension, new service, or flex route
- Fairview: No recommendation for extension, new service, or flex route
- Reynolds: Recommendation for Limited Fixed Route or Flex Route

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



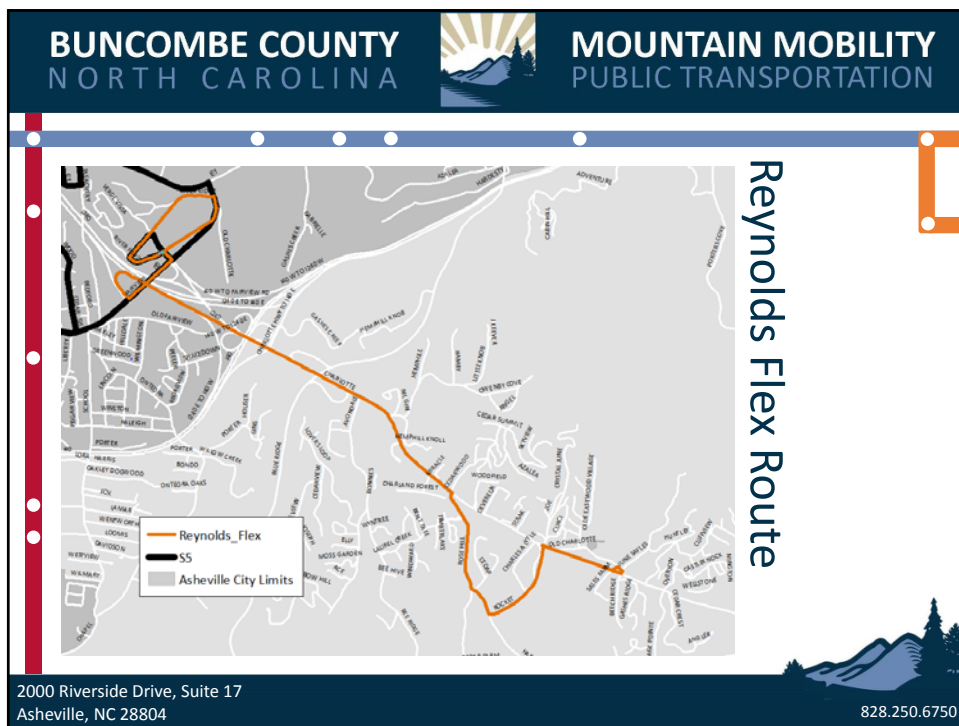
**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Reynolds Flex Route

- Fixed route service extension or new route not recommended
- Limited fixed route service (AM/PM) considered
- Flex Route connecting at River Ridge considered
- No implementation timeframe is established by the TMP
- City of Asheville FY TBD estimated request for \$318,000\* from Buncombe County to operate Reynolds Flex Route
- ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Area expansion/trip volume increase

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
 NORTH CAROLINA



**MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**  
 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Further Considerations by  
Buncombe County

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
 Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

The image shows a presentation slide with a dark blue header. On the left, it says "BUNCOMBE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA". In the center is a logo featuring a sun rising over mountains and water. On the right, it says "MOUNTAIN MOBILITY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION". The main title of the slide is "Service Considerations" in a large, white serif font. Below the title, there are two sections of bullet points. The first section is "Trailblazer Routes" followed by four bullet points: "Modifications to routes?", "Eliminations of routes?", "Expansion of service days/hours (City participation)?", and "Grant funding limited and possible loss of grant funding?". The second section is "ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Contract Implications" followed by three bullet points: "Service volume growth and operating costs increases?", "Contract rate adjustments to eliminate historic County subsidy of service?", and "Contract rate adjustments as service volume changes increases?". At the bottom left, there is contact information: "2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17 Asheville, NC 28804". At the bottom right, there is a phone number: "828.250.6750". A small graphic of mountains and trees is visible in the bottom right corner.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA

MOUNTAIN MOBILITY  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Service Considerations

### Trailblazer Routes

- Modifications to routes?
- Eliminations of routes?
- Expansion of service days/hours (City participation)?
- Grant funding limited and possible loss of grant funding?

### ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Contract Implications

- Service volume growth and operating costs increases?
- Contract rate adjustments to eliminate historic County subsidy of service?
- Contract rate adjustments as service volume changes increases?

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

| BUNCOMBE COUNTY<br>NORTH CAROLINA                                     |                  |                  |                  | MOUNTAIN MOBILITY<br>PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Budget Considerations                                                 |                  |                  |                  |                                            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Fiscal Year ->                                                        | 2020             | 2021             | 2022             | 2023                                       | 2024             | 2025             | 2026             | 2027             | 2028             | 2029             |
| Crosstown Route 4                                                     | \$ 62,657        | \$ 65,790        | \$ 69,079        | \$ 72,533                                  | \$ 76,160        | \$ 79,968        | \$ 83,966        | \$ 88,165        | \$ 92,573        | \$ 97,202        |
| Weaverville via<br>Broadway Route                                     | Future<br>Year   | Future<br>Year   | \$ 257,960       | \$ 270,858                                 | \$ 284,401       | \$ 298,621       | \$ 313,552       | \$ 329,230       | \$ 345,691       | \$ 362,976       |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                       | <b>\$ 62,657</b> | <b>\$ 65,790</b> | <b>\$327,039</b> | <b>\$343,391</b>                           | <b>\$360,561</b> | <b>\$378,589</b> | <b>\$397,518</b> | <b>\$417,394</b> | <b>\$438,264</b> | <b>\$460,177</b> |
| Flex Route<br>(Future Year to Be<br>Determined)<br>OR Limited Service | \$ 318,000       | \$ 333,900       | \$ 350,595       | \$ 368,125                                 | \$ 386,531       | \$ 405,858       | \$ 426,150       | \$ 447,458       | \$ 469,831       | \$ 493,322       |
| <b>Total Potential Request<br/>to Buncombe County</b>                 | <b>\$380,657</b> | <b>\$399,690</b> | <b>\$677,634</b> | <b>\$711,516</b>                           | <b>\$747,092</b> | <b>\$784,446</b> | <b>\$823,669</b> | <b>\$864,852</b> | <b>\$908,095</b> | <b>\$953,500</b> |

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



MOUNTAIN MOBILITY

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Section 5307 Program Funds

### Use of Funds

- Funds allocated to Buncombe County - Not Available in Prior Years
  - FFY 2016 \$264,662 (\$85,892 included in FY 2019 Budget for fuel)
  - FFY 2017 \$485,404
  - FFY 2018 \$687,256 (estimate)
- Funds allocated to Buncombe were previously available to the City of Asheville
- Anticipate use of allocation over time as NCDOT PTD reduces grants
- Grant funds can be returned to the region making them available to the City of Asheville

2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

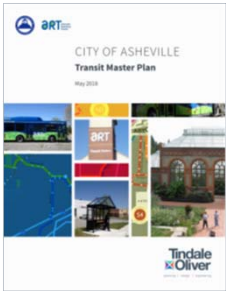


MOUNTAIN MOBILITY

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Accessing the City of Asheville's Transit Master Plan (TMP)

[https://www.ashevilenc.gov/departments/transit/transit\\_master\\_plan.htm](https://www.ashevilenc.gov/departments/transit/transit_master_plan.htm)



2000 Riverside Drive, Suite 17  
Asheville, NC 28804

828.250.6750