

Transportation Workgroup Meeting

DATE **January 19, 2012**

LOCATION **AB Teach, Enka Campus**

Stakeholders Who Might Be Missing and Need to Be Included:

- County Representation
- Transit agencies
- Make sure RPO is involved
- Healthy Buncombe/Pioneering Healthy Communities
- Taxi/Private transportation providers
- Representatives of low-income communities w/out access to transit
- Asheville-Downtown MP Transportation Committee (looking at shuttles and zipcar options)
- School supervisors
- EV Committee & alternative fuels committee
- Local biofuel produces & energy workgroup
- WNC passenger rail committee
- Large employers – help fund shuttle costs/transit Biltmore Park
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Asheville Design Center
- Freight stakeholders-to be determined
- WNC Transportation Alliance
- Regional Transit operators
- Hospitals as stakeholders
- Regional TDM study
- Strive not to drive
- Bicycle community

Existing Plans & Data

What about carpooling data? Have some carpooling data from the American Community Survey



Barriers to Alternative Transportation:

- Lack of sidewalks/bike lanes
- (Insufficient) maintenance of sidewalks
- Transit hours
- Integration
- Need more flexibility/time-competitive transit
- Lack of parallel safe bike routes
- NC requires insurance to get a drivers license-barrier to those without a car
- Car sharing (lack of)
- Need more/better information on transit
- Safe pedestrian crossings
- No good way to get to other cities (Charlotte)
- Need Next Bus/electronic signage to let riders know when the bus will be coming
- Directional signs plus time by mode
- Travel apps (mobile)
- Dedicated local/regional funding sources needed
- 3 out of 5 counties don't have fixed route service
- Regional call center (lack of)
- Better information about transit eligibility
- Railroads vs greenways pedestrian crossing
- Rural to center (jobs) connection
- Vanpools
- Express buses (lack of)
- Getting jobs & medical service
- What are current transportation priority projects
- Distance between origins & destinations
- Lack of convenient park & ride lots
- Formalize informal park & ride lots
- Hard to find motorcycle parking especially downtown Asheville

Factors in Home location

- Cost: drive till you qualify
- MHO – a good program providing affordable housing
- Proximity to work a factor
- Proximity to amenities-coffee shops/greenways
- Proximity to transit
- Jobs change/might be stuck with previous home location
- Lack of DSL internet/hard to work from home
- Quiet and access to nature vs. safe bicycle routes to city (can't have both right now)



- Change in housing/jobs: about 50% of the workgroup members present have changed housing/job location in the last 10 years
- Cost of parking-very few pay for parking at work
- When would you change behavior due to fuel price
- Easier to change vehicles
- Delay in response to gas price increase; 9 month delay in late 1970's to see change in behavior due to shortage of fuel;
- \$5.00/gal fuel likely result in change of behavior
- Downtown Asheville workers-would probably not change even with higher fuel prices
- Slow increase in gas prices is less likely to change behavior than a fast spike

Additional Comments

What is happening with the I-26 Project; what are current top roadway project priorities which are being implemented?

Members Present

Blake Esselstyn, City of Asheville Planner
David Finder, Blossman Gas
David Johnson, Asheville Design Center
Dwayne Stutzman, Buncombe County Greenways Commission
Greg Borom, Children First
Jay Swain, NCDOT
Jeff Joyce, Asheville Chamber of Commerce
Julie Mayfield, WNCA
Kenneth Wilson, NCDOT
Kristy Carter, Appalachian Regional Commission/DCP
Lael Gray, WNCA/City of Asheville resident
Lenny Bernstein, BRSI
Loretta Barren, FHWA
Lyuba Zuyeva, FBRMPO (scribe)
Matt Wallace, AMEC
Marian Arledge, Buncombe County Department of Health
Mariate Echeverry, Asheville Transit
Paul Black, FBRMPO (facilitator)
Renee Mastrangle, Town of Black Mountain
Reuben Moore, NCDOT
Robert Eidus, Transportation Consultant
Susan Garrett, ABCCM