BUNCOMBE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN SCOPE

William High

Planning Department

MOUNTAIN MOBILITY OVERVIEW

- Demand Response Countywide
- Trailblazer Service
  - Black Mountain
  - Enka-Candler
  - North Buncombe
- ADA Complementary Paratransit on behalf of the City of Asheville

- 100,000+ annual trips
- 7,000+ customers
- 43 revenue vehicles
- Operating contract set to expire FY2029

PROJECT HISTORY TO DATE

- October 2025: FBRMPO call for projects for planning grants
- March 2025: FBRMPO selects Buncombe County Public Transportation Plan for award
- June 2026: Board of Commissioners approves planning grant matching funds in FY2027 budget

FBRMPO: French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

PLAN OVERVIEW

- Planning Area: Public transportation services within Buncombe County (excluding ART services)
- Project Management: Undertaken in partnership with FBRMPO (like the Pedestrian Plan)
- Start Date: Spring 2027
- Plan Budget: $250,000
  - $200,000 Federal
  - $50,000 Local Match (FY2027 Transportation Fund 230)

PRECEDING PLANS AND STUDIES

Buncombe County

2015 - Community Transportation Service Plan

2016 - Service Delivery Model Study

2023 – Microtransit Analysis

2025 – Zero Emissions Vehicle Plan

FBRMPO

2017 – French Broad Urban Transit Funding Formula Study

2018 - Locally Coordinated Plan

2021 - Regional Transit Feasibility Study (FBRMPO)

KEY STUDY CONSIDERATIONS

- Data review and analysis
- Existing conditions and capacity analysis
- Public and partner feedback
- Management and service alternatives, including microtransit
- Funding and financing

POTENTIAL DELIVERABLES

- Service recommendations based on market analysis
- Partnership recommendations (if any)
- Funding expectations for any service recommendations
- Funding opportunities
- Plan for public transportation for five-to-ten-year period

NEXT STEPS

Consultant Identification

- *January*: Draft and Release RFLOI with the FBRMPO
- *March*: Identify a consultant team and contract scope
- *April*: Kickoff project

Steering Committee

- *December*: Propose Steering Committee process and makeup to Board
- *January*: Create Steering Committee and release application
- *February*: Close applications after 30 days
- *March*: Appoint Steering Committee members

QUESTIONS