

From: Kim Roney <mskimroney@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/16/2018 10:48:52 PM
To: Brian Haynes, Esther Manheimer, Gwen Wisler AVL City Council, Julie Mayfield, Keith Young, Sheneika Smith, vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: Expressing support for the TMP, yet consider the current state of

Mayor Manheimer and Council Members,

I am proud to have worked with my fellow colleagues on the MMTC, and the especially diligent Transit Committee, to provide input throughout the TMP process. The transit staff have been tireless, especially Ely, and the consultants handled the task skillfully. I am among the advocates strongly endorsing the TMP as sent forward by the MMTC and TC, having spent upwards of 45 hours in the process at this point.Â

Since I will not be in attendance at your Council meeting on July 24th, I will note that successful implementation of the TMP is going to require prioritization and collaboration. Now is the time to make an investment in a transit system that works for the people of Asheville who need it most, then work on partnerships with groups such as the County Commission and TDA to grow the system into the new
ART: Asheville Regional Transit.Â

As we consider where we are going, we must also be realistic about where we are now. It is my understanding that routes are all currently running, but the issues rising to the surface are due to previous practice of mismanagement in addition to issues that come with an aging fleet. In the past couple weeks, weâ€™ve been cancelling, pausing, or running limited runs on 1-4 routes. I have pictures of buses being towed for locked steering columns and having coolant fluid leaking inside the bus. Here are some solutions I sent to transit staff last week, ranging from best to worst-case scenario:Â

1. Is it possible to have maintenance staff work overnights while the regular routes arenâ€™t running?
2. Iâ€™d like to request a report on how many service hours we have not paid for due to maintenance issues? I took pictures of the 1434 getting towed... the driver says the pins in the steering column are the issue not allowing the bus to turn. He says another route will have to be pulled today, while the E1-1/2, S2, and S6 are also out of service.
3. How can we help research ability to rent a couple buses to hold us over?Â
4. Worst case: do we pull the E1-1/2 and/or S2 until the new buses come? *Saying we run the buses when we canâ€™t is causing serious mistrust. I canâ€™t possibly advocate for this, but the E1 on the half-hour and the S2 are so regularly getting pulled that itâ€™s becoming common.

Another solution that has come up: coordinate with the County to borrow/rent smaller vehicles to test on low-ridership routes.Â

Ultimately, this was the situation I feared: that the current fleet wouldnâ€™t last until new ones arrive in January. The management company supposedly has corporate reps in town reviewing the system.

I will gladly continue to support in any way possible. Iâ€™m studying abroad through the end of July, but will prioritize this issue via email.Â

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued dedication to access in our community via public transportation!

Kim

(This email typed on my â€œsmartâ€ phone)

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Sent from my "smart" phone.