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What is the Asheville Regional Transit Coalition (ARTC)?

ARTC was created in Spring 2017 and is made up of long time local transit advocates, planners, representatives of the Asheville Transit and Multimodal committee and others.

We believe transit service that operates **in more areas for longer hours and at higher frequencies**, will greatly benefit local residents and businesses and lead to a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable community. To read more about the coalition visit <https://transit4all.com/about>

The steering committee, which consists of representatives of the advocacy groups, meets every two weeks, and ARTC endorsers are welcome to join those meetings. Please contact avltransit4all@gmail.com for more information.

What's the problem we're trying to solve?

Asheville area transit service lags behind the needs of our communities. Some areas of our community aren't served by bus service, several routes end service at 7:30 pm or earlier, and we have only 60-minute service on most routes with 30-minutes service on five major routes. These deficiencies mean less opportunities for those who depend on transit to get to work, school, childcare, healthcare, and doing daily business like shopping and laundry. For those who would prefer to use transit to reduce costs or carbon footprint, owning and driving a car is simply an easier, more attractive choice.

Don't take our word for it, check out what your commute would look like via public transportation at www.ashevillenc.gov/departments/transit/maps_schedules.html

What are ARTC's current priorities?

We are currently focusing on Asheville City Council to create a dedicated funding stream for improving transit service and to define an implementation plan that will get us to transit all day, in more areas, more frequently. **Specifically in the '18-'19 budget cycle we're asking for 12 additional service hours in the system every day and an additional transit planner to help support our expanding system. we're asking to expand the current transit budget by \$5 million over 2017 levels in the next five years.**

The City is currently updating the Transit Master Plan, which should detail how much it will cost to expand service within the City and out to the County. Once we have that information, we plan to expand our focus to include the County.

Does funding transit compete with other priorities, like greenways or affordable housing?

The short answer is no, for several reasons.



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-We're asking for City Council to add money to the annual budget, specifically for transit; not reallocate funding from the general fund.

-Infrastructure improvements like housing, greenways, sidewalks and parks are much easier to fund. These capital investments are easier to fund through multiple grants and other sources than the type of ongoing, annual, operational funding needed to improve transit.

-The Asheville Bonds, approved by voters in 2016, secured \$32 million for transportation infrastructure improvements like road repairs, sidewalks, greenways, bus shelters, and pedestrian crossings; but none of those funds will go, or were eligible to go, to transit operational expenses.

What does it mean to support ARTC?

ARTC invites individuals and organizations to stand with us by adding your name to the list of endorsers and supporters at www.transit4all.com/support

All endorsements will be listed on the online supporter page and will receive periodical updates about ARTC's progress. An endorsement does not obligate you or your organization to anything, though we will share ways that you can choose to support the campaign by participating in a day of action, writing a letter to decision makers, and sharing information with your networks or other actions.