

From: [Wakena Colon](#)
To: [Bjorn Hansen](#)
Subject: 74X Bus Renewal
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 4:41:38 PM

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Good Afternoon Mr. Hansen -

I am a newer rider on the 74X Bus and heard that the renewal is up for review. I would like to submit my input for the council to consider keeping the bus for commuters.

I lost my vehicle back in July and have not been in a position to buy a new vehicle. I am a single mom and thankfully it has not been a total hardship because of the 74X Bus. We had just moved into the apartments behind the Food Lion so I was able to conveniently transition to walking to a short 10 minutes walk to the bus stop and a 20 minute walk uptown to my work. My employer was able to work with my schedule to allow me to take the bus.

In taking the 74X for work, I have also been able to venture out to using other buses to get around to various parts of the city as needed. But my primary bus trip is the 74X to and from work.

In addition, riding the 74X has had a positive impact on my health. I am getting more exercise AND my stress is lowered from not having to navigate traffic allowing me to be a better mom for my daughter when I am home.

I know there are a number of us (many who have been riding the bus for many years) that have a number of different reasons for riding this bus. I really hope the council will vote to keep the 74X.

Thank you for your consideration!

Wakena Colon

From: [Terry Kelley](#)
To: [Bjorn Hansen](#)
Subject: 74X Express Bus
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 11:21:04 AM

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Bjorn

I received a flyer in regards to the 74x Union Co. Bus. I truly hope that you and the Board will find funding to keep this bus in operation. After 26 years of driving to Matthews to ride the 64X I switched to 74X. I have found this bus to be a much better fit for me. The ridership has increased since I started back in June 2024.

I personally feel that this bus is an hugh asset to Union Co. Residents like me that work in downtown Charlotte. The major factors are: helping with traffic (which is currently a nightmare) and cost of transportation (gas time in traffic and parking) Parking in downtown Charlotte is expensive and has long wait list.

Any major assistance/ fight you can help push for 74X riders will be greatly appreciated. Yes the 74X is more expensive than the Matthews 64X but time and gas saved is worth it.

This is truly a wonderful gift to have. In total I have been riding a bus to downtown for 29 years and love it!!!! Please help us.

Thanks in advance.

Terry Kelley
Indian Trail resident
704-641-4039.

Terry Kelley

From: [Sherry DiPaola](#)
To: [Bjorn Hansen](#)
Cc: [Lynn West](#)
Subject: 11/4 meeting Re: 74x
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024 7:09:28 AM

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I just found out from a fellow bus rider that they are voting again to decide on whether to keep the 74x. In what world do we live in where “public transportation” is eliminated?

I cannot attend the meeting, but my comments from my January email below remain. I already have to get up at 5:15, to leave my home at 6:15, to get to the 6:30 bus to arrive in time for my work day (because the second bus was eliminated long ago).

It may be thought that we can all just go to Matthews to get the 64x. To get to Matthews in time, I’ll lose out on more of my family morning routine. If I have to drive to Matthews, I’ll just keep driving to work instead - it’s not much further. Parking is about the same as the monthly pass. Paying for gas and parking is the price I will pay for quality of life. And I will arrive home quicker leaving work right at 4:00 instead of waiting an additional 20 minutes for the outbound bus, then having to drive home from Matthews.

The reason I use CATS is for the 74x. I will not be a rider that transitions to 64x. I will stop at grocery stores in Mecklenburg on my way home instead of Union County. I will change my doctors/dentists to folks in Mecklenburg so I can make appointments for offices that are on my way in or out of work if I have to drive.

Also note that I’ve seen ridership is up, but drivers tend to wave people onto the afternoon bus without paying, which probably makes it appear there are fewer riders.

Eliminating the bus means people won’t have any opportunities to use public transportation for work. Is that the goal? Remove employment connections for Charlotte from Union County? Unfortunately, Union County does not have equal pay for similar jobs. I have to work in Charlotte to afford living in Union County. My job in Union County is half the pay as Charlotte.

Hopefully the board makes the right decision for the citizens.

Sherry

On Jan 16, 2024, at 8:59 AM, Bjorn Hansen <bjorn.hansen@unioncountync.gov> wrote:

Thank you for sending, Sherry. I am compiling comments to include in our board of commissioners presentation this evening.

Sincerely,

Bjorn

Bjorn E. Hansen, AICP CTP

Senior Planner – Long Range Planning | Planning Department

T 704.283.3690

bjorn.hansen@unioncountync.gov
unioncountync.gov

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From: Sherry <sherrydipaola@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2024 8:08 PM
To: Bjorn Hansen <bjorn.hansen@unioncountync.gov>
Cc: Lynn West <Lynn.West@unioncountync.gov>
Subject: 74x

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Mr. Hansen,

I never thought a town and county would consider removing a public service such as a bus route. I hope the Board of Commissioners seriously considers the impact this will have should the 74x be cancelled. It may not impact you, or anyone on the board; and you may believe it will only impact a handful of people, however, consider the broader impact. Union County will be cut off from Charlotte for those who rely on public transportation at this time, and in the future. Any plans for the lightrail are too far off in the future to say it will be a replacement for the bus.

I specifically chose to buy a house in Indian Trail due to the Express Bus route. We searched all counties that had Express routes (Gaston, Fort Mill, Concord, Huntersville) and chose Indian Trail. Never did I think a county with an established bus

route would remove it.

Also consider that ridership may be down from pre-covid because the 2nd bus time was removed during the pandemic. Union County used to have 3 bus times. I rode the 2nd bus since 2008, until it was removed. I now arrive at work 20 minutes early because the last bus will cause me to arrive late. Many people may have opted to drive now because they don't want to be 20 minutes early, or late.

This bus is more limited than it used to be, especially with Monroe cut out. What new riders would feel confident making a lifestyle change from driving to riding a bus if they have to fight for the service every year? Or they are not confident it will remain in place?

I subscribe to the Cats emails, and did not know about the impending doom until a fellow rider handed me a printout regarding the meeting. There are many people who are not regular riders who are dropped off and picked up by family/friends, who I doubt know this meeting is taking place. During the summer there are people who walk and ride bikes to pick up this bus. The bus is not only working class cubicle dwellers like myself; who you think can just hop in a car and go to Matthews. It is a means of transportation for many types of people of various income levels.

You may also say I should work in Union County. I would certainly love to eliminate my commute to Charlotte and work closer to home. However, I make double in Charlotte what I would make in Union County, albeit, it is still not enough to afford the gas, wear/tear on my car, and monthly parking. The money I make in Charlotte is brought home and spent here. We don't spend our money in Charlotte. I don't want to pay for their stadium. I shop local, because it never occurred to me that my county would not be loyal. If I do have to catch the Matthews bus, I'm not in a mindset after work to drive all the way home to do shopping. I'm mentally worn out from work and I'll do my shopping as soon as I am off the bus in Matthews. This is

something other riders have talked about.

Please pass on my concerns, as I cannot attend a weekday meeting. I have to pick up the kids from aftercare, make dinner, help them with their homework before it's bedtime. My husband and I watched the last meeting via youtube. Everything that was said then by speakers still applies. Nothing has changed except gas prices are up, taxes are increased, and the economy still sucks.

Regards,
Sherry DiPaola

From: [Tom Van Beek](#)
To: [Bjorn Hansen](#)
Subject: Support for 74x bus.
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 7:45:26 AM

WARNING: This email originated from outside of Union County Government, be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello Mr Hansen,

I would like to officially convey my support for Union County to fund the CATS 74x bus service.

I have been a Lake Park resident and riding 74x since it began service. This has become an even more valuable service since the bus lane has opened. The alternative is to drive to the Matthews bus stop. However that is taking increasingly long to drive there due to traffic.

Continuing the 74x bus service will cut down on traffic in Union County on Highway 74 towards Matthews. It will also make living in Union County better for the many people that ride it. Mass transit from Union County into Charlotte will become increasingly important as population grows. It will be much harder to start a new route later than to continue the existing route now.

Let me know if I need to register this support via another channel or email.

Thanks,

Tom Van Beek
6511 Mimosa St.
Lake Park, NC.

From: [stacie.w](#)
To: [Bjorn.Hansen](#)
Subject: Please save the Union County bus 74X
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:59:48 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you in regards to the 74X bus from Indian Trail to Uptown. Please continue funding this route. I have been taking this bus for over 17 years to get to my job at a corporate bank. This bus is a much needed service for residents of Union County. The ridership has greatly increased since more companies have had their employees return to office. I see more and more people at this stop each day. I urge you to come to the bus stop at 7:23 Tuesday - Thursday to talk to fellow riders.

This bus benefits the residents of Union County immensely. Please do not consider not funding for next year.

Thank you,
Stacie Prudente - Indian trail resident

From: [Love, Ryan](#)
To: [Bjorn Hansen](#)
Subject: CATS 74X
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:19:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Bjorn,

I'm unable to attend the meeting today for the continuation of CATS bus 74X, so I wanted to comment.

My ask is to please continue with this bus stop in Indian Trail. The 74X is vital to my commute to uptown Charlotte. I feel it's a benefit to the shops in the area as well. Many times, I get off the bus and walk in Food Lion to get things for dinner and other necessities for the week. If not for the bus, I probably would not stop at Food Lion because it's not convenient to my commute home. The Fire Stone auto repair is also convenient to drop off your car and pickup at the end of the day once you get off the bus. Cannot forget the ABC store when the work week has been stressful. Allow us to continue serving the shops in Indian Trail while Indian Trail continues to serve us with the bus.

Thanks.

Ryan Love

Vice President
Compliance and Operational Risk Manager

PRIVATE BANK

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From: [Susan Snyder](#)
To: [Bjorn Hansen](#)
Subject: 74 express
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 4:29:53 PM

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Bjorn,

I cannot make the meeting, but I am a resident of Union County and I work uptown Charlotte and utilize the 74 express bus to get to work. Because my employer has mandated a three day work week it is not cost efficient for me to drive and pay for uptown parking which is very expensive. I, along with many other folks who work uptown, depend on this public transportation. As more and more people move to the suburbs of Charlotte, including Indian Trail, I can only assume the need for this public transportation will increase. I am also aware that the folks living in Monroe lost their funding and now have to drive to Indian Trail for the service. I do hope Indian Trail will continue to see fit to service those in our city who for whatever reason either don't have their own transportation available or need a more economical means of commuting. Finally I am a supporter of public transportation in that it reduces the amount of traffic overall, pollution, and other potential economical impacts that would otherwise result from a larger number of cars on Highway 74.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Susan Snyder
2008 Seabiscuit Drive
Indian Trail, NC 28079
704-907-8458

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [John Gonzalez](#)
To: [Bjorn Hansen](#)
Subject: 74x
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 6:48:42 AM

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Hi Bjorn,

It was nice meeting you while waiting for the 74x in the early AM.

Please know the time you're taking to meet and represent us commuters is very much appreciated.

That being said, I have to say it definitely seems as if ridership on the 74x in the AM is slightly increasing as of late.

Having migrated from NYC myself I can definitely say and see how vital mass transit is to growing economies and communities.

Especially now that plans for the Silver Line light rail calls for bus service between Matthews and Uptown making the availability of the 74x that more important. This might not have been the case had plans to extend the Silver Line light rail to Stallings or Indian Trail for that matter didn't fall through.

I know the decision isn't yours to make but as previously stated all of your effort in this regard is very much appreciated.

Thank you,

John G.

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