

Union County 74X Express Bus Update

Union County Board of Commissioners
November 18, 2024



UNIONCOUNTY
north carolina

Background

- Operated since 2004 between Union County and Uptown Charlotte
 - Indian Trail stop (Marshville for three-years in the 2000s, Monroe until 2023)
 - 50/50 cost sharing between Union County and CATS
 - FTA 5307 urban funds have covered half of Union County's share since 2019
- Traditionally three (currently two) AM and PM round trips (six total)
 - CATS reduced to two trips in the AM and PM (four total) in 2020
- Ridership plummeted during COVID (over 60% drop)
- Ridership has increased to approximately 1,000 trips/month
 - Based on counting people entering or leaving the bus (APC)
 - Historic numbers were based on farebox, which have had errors counting transactions. Result is an undercount of 20% or more
- Future ridership is recovering but is not anticipated to grow to pre-COVID levels due to remote work options
- Union County Transportation (UCT) has increasing requests for demand-response service. This is expected to increase for all age groups and especially as the 60+ population continues to grow

Historic Ridership and Union County Costs

Year	Daily Ridership (Farebox Method)	Daily Ridership (APC Method)	Notes	Cash Cost to Union County	Grant Cost
05-06	Not available	Not available		\$71,000	
13-14	171	Not available		\$98,000	
15-16	136	Not available		\$100,000	
18-19	110	Not available		\$127,000	
19-20	84	Not available	partial COVID impacts, 5307 grant takes effect	\$65,000	\$65,000
22-23	32	41		\$70,000	\$70,000
23-24	38	40	Indian Trail partnership	\$21,000	\$42,000
24-25 YTD	40	45	Indian Trail partnership	\$23,000	\$43,000

Existing Partnership with Indian Trail

- Two-year agreement, expiring June 30, 2025
 - \$18,000 in year 1 (FY24)
 - \$19,500 in year 2 (FY25)
- If supported by both parties, would need to be renewed for FY 26 if service continues

Transportation Advisory Board and Indian Trail Positions

- TAB met October 23 and recommended that the service continues, with a five-year interlocal with Indian Trail
- Indian Trail Town Manager was notified October 15 and asked to provide Town feedback by November 15
 - Initial feedback is that the Town supports the service and partnership and would support a five-year interlocal agreement
- Annual cost to Indian Trail would be as follows
 - FY2026- \$20,183
 - FY2027- \$20,889
 - FY2028- \$21,620
 - FY2029- \$22,377
 - FY2030- \$23,160

Action Requested

1. Affirm support for express bus route
2. Support five-year interlocal agreement with Indian Trail, to be approved at a later date

Questions



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plant your future.