



## Comments Regional Transit Feasibility October 2002 Forums

Your input will help decide how to implement the potential recommendations. Please provide your comments in the spaces provided below.

1. The recommendations include two potential express routes. Tell us how important the PCMH/ Brody Building and Shoppers Express are to you. Are the hours, frequency, and days of service appropriate?

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2. A second recommendation is the expansion of general public service throughout Pitt County. Tell us whether transit services should be available outside Greenville. Is demand-response service, which requires an advanced registration, appropriate? Should a \$5.00 fare be charged? A \$2.50 fare?

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3. Several cities and universities around the country have a UPass program in place where students, faculty, and staff can ride city buses for no charge. Should ECU and Greenville develop a similar program? Should this program cover the county transit service, too? Is it worth \$5.00 annually in student fees?

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4. The long-term recommendations call for the potential creation of a transit authority, similar to the current PGV Airport Authority. Should Greenville and Pitt County establish such an authority? Would you support additional funding to expand transit service?

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5. What one recommendation to improve transit service would you like to have implemented?

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6. Please give us any additional thoughts you have regarding public transit services in the region.

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If you would like to be added to a mailing list on public transit issues and future service improvements, please give us your contact information below.

Name

Address

Email

## Comments from Questionnaire

The following is a verbatim reproduction of the comments received at the **Mendenhall Student Center** public forum.

### Comments for Question One regarding the potential express routes:

1. They are not appropriate to me as I have a car and do not need a bus to take me there.
2. PCMH does not condone this measure. Students agree as well.
3. Days for Blue Route are fine. As an RA on campus and an on-campus resident for four years, I would not feel comfortable riding around with Greenville residents.
4. No, I don't think we need these changes.
5. The two new express routes are not important to me. The service currently provided by red & blue routes is satisfactory. While the addition of these express routes would not cause student drivers to be immediately fired, the loss in hours would cause less senior drivers to fall short on hours and be forced to supplement income with other jobs.
6. Keep it like it is. We don't pay f—king tuition to service Greenville residents.
7. The current routes provided by ECU Student Transit Authority are appropriate. Our funds should not be used for city routes. If city routes need to be made, do it and leave ECU alone.
- 8.
9. The routes red and blue are fine as they are.
10. Very important. Leave ECU routes alone.
11. It should stay like it is.
12. This recommendation is not important to me as a student at ECU. The system we have now is serving the school's needs.
13. I don't use these routes.
14. We currently have Red and Blue routes that service these areas and we do not have to worry about riding with the general public.
15. No, I don't really take those routes at all. If I did need to go, I would drive my car.
16. We don't want this!
17. These are not important areas to me for service.
18. Looks like a great improvement! As more of ECU is over to the medical campus, more service would be needed.
- 19.
20. It is not important to us at all. We do need see any advantages to this.
21. Currently, I do not use mass transit in Greenville. This regrettable but the service provided by the City is not publicized nor is it readily available. For instance, maps of the current bus routes for the city are not at this event – not enough were brought even for the first (11:30 forum). This was all a half hearted attempt at information dissemination and collection.

22. I support the idea of consolidating service in principal, however there are many things to be addressed: safety, additional payment by students, and protection of student jobs.
23. PCMH/Brody are very important to me because I work there.
24. Express may be just as fast as regular routes considering local mindset on traffic flows. The ECU Red Route is for medical students as a fast way to class at Brody. Illogical to replace it.
25. Hours need to start about 9 AM for shopping.
26. The shoppers express is very important to me because I use the Blue bus at least 3 times a week. The times are much better than the Blue bus, but the stops would have to be the same for me to agree with it.

Comments for Question Two regarding Pitt County general public service:

1. No fare should be charged to us when we are the ones giving up the benefits for others around Greenville.
2. I don't see how Demand-Response structure can benefit students who use the shuttle system in place.
3. No, we pay enough of money – let the City cover it with all the money they would receive on the students.
4. No, it should not be available outside of Greenville.
5. Combining GREAT and PATS to provide service outside of Greenville is fine, as long as there is no impact on ECU in the form of fees, lost jobs, etc.
6. No. We have all we need with the ECU Transit.
7. The demand is not that great. Commuters already ride ECU buses and are happy with their service.
- 8.
9. No, the routes should remain the same as ECU Transit by itself but I don't care what happens to Greenville transit.
10. I am for expansion of general public service. Fee is fine. Leave ECU out of it.
11. No, we pay enough in tuition and for other things to ECU. We should have transportation for free with the option of a tip.
12. ECU should have nothing to do with the general public. Students pay their fees to the university and therefore to require students to pay more is unfair.
13. There should be no fee charged.
14. Demand-response service would be appropriate as long as those riders are paying for the cost – kind of like a taxi service. Why should I pay for something I don't use?
15. No, the people who ride outside the area are not interested in the transit authority.
16. NO!
17. Transit should be available to these areas, however not at the expense of ECU student fees. Greenville should provide adequate services to their residents.
18. Hate to say, I live on a route already
19. No, I would not pay anymore money for this. You cannot guarantee service to all of the 45% of the student.

20. I do not know the economics of this issue well enough to respond. I do feel that events in county communities Farmville, Ayden, Winterville festivals should have buses servicing them at a cost that is significantly less than what is proposed above.
21. Does the density of Pitt County support this? Where is the evidence to back this up? There is no point providing service where it will not be used.
22. I think advanced registration is appropriate. I am not sure how much of a demand there is outside of Greenville.
23. If the county residents will support it, yes.
24. The students do not need another financial burden on them.
25. No.

Comments for Question Three regarding the potential UPass:

1. No, when we have our own bus system and want to keep it like that, why interfere. Make your own bus system comparable to the ECU bus system and leave it at that.
2. I don't feel that this is a good idea at this time. Our system is fine compared to GREAT system.
3. No – we have a transit we pay for that fits our need. Why should I and other pay more for something we won't use?
4. Who cares about other universities? This is ECU and we do not need to change anything. I can get on a bus now without showing anything. Not, it is not worth \$5.00. I have enough student fees.
5. If the implementation of such a program would result in extra fees for students, it is NOT worth it. I can get everywhere I need to go by using existing ECU service.
6. No. Leave the f—king buses like they are.
7. This is not needed or wanted by ECU students. We do not feel safe riding city buses and shouldn't have to.
- 8.
9. No, ECU should not do UPass because the system is fine as well. No because ECU and Greenville are not going to merger.
10. There is not enough benefit to the students of ECU.
11. No the city and universities should stay separate.
12. No.
13. No, things are good the way they are. Don't change them.
14. No; no; no.
15. No, I think Greenville is entirely different than Raleigh or Chapel Hill. We are not to that level just yet.
16. NO!
17. ECU should not develop a joint system that would cover county transit. The UPass is a good idea as a means of id for bus rides. However, to have it free is not an issue to me. To pay to ride a bus is not a problem.
18. I think it would help. I live on the shoppers express route and it would be great way to get to and from work/school.

19. No, first I wouldn't feel as safe and ECU transit is designed to meet the needs of the students.
20. It is not worth it.
21. The existing transit system is included in the fees. It covers where I want to go. It doesn't make sense to subsidize the city transit system at the expense of the university.
22. Details please! I am an ECU student and fail to see how this will benefit me. The current service provides everything I need. I do not want to pay an additional fee for something I will not use. Consolidating service is supposed to be more efficient, not cost more money.
23. If it is feasible, I think it is a great idea. \$5.00 annually is worth it to me.
24. 1. yes, 2. yes, 3 yes (more). 4. Develop a lite-rail system using old and existing right of ways. "Build it and they will come!"
25. No.
26. Yes, I think this is a great idea and \$5.00 is not that bad.

Comments for Question Four regarding the potential for a transit authority:

1. No I do not feel I should pay for anything else other than what I pay for currently.
2. I would not support this merger as it stands.
3. No – more funding = increase in tuition fees.
4. No.
5. The combination of GREAT and PATS seems to be beneficial, but not at the expense of routes cut or student jobs lost at ECU Transit.
6. No. I am not paying any more damn money.
7. No, no.
- 8.
9. No I would not and no additional funding should be wasted on such a stupid idea.
10. Yes.
11. No!
12. No, I would not support this.
- 13.
14. No; no.
- 15.
16. NO!
17. No.
18. Yes and yes! There is a great deal of need for services all over the city.
- 19.
- 20.
21. This is a very leading question. What should someone say "No I don't support additional funding for expansion?" But the question is linked to another question that is related but does not necessarily follow. I think the transit authority should focus on ECU.
22. Yes, no. The services should be consolidated creating a more efficient, environmentally friendly system and get more fed funds. It is wrong to create a service that will cost more.

- 23.
- 24.
25. As long as ECU is not in it.
26. No, and not I don't have extra funds for such programs.

Comments for Question Five regarding the Number One Recommendation:

1. Being quicker but what that is hard to change because of traffic.
2. Improve existing transit system then re-evaluate proposal.
3. You should improve your public transportation before trying to add on to ours.
4. Leave it the way it is. Stop trying to change things.
5. ECU Transit needs no improvements. I don't use GREAT or PATS and therefore cannot recommend any improvements.
6. Leave the ECU Transit alone.
7. Leave transit at ECU alone. Make new city routes if you would like.
- 8.
9. Leave it as it is and let ECU Transit function normally.
10. More responsible drivers.
11. Keep it like it is.
12. To continue to have public transportation away from ECU transportation.
- 13.
14. Personally, I am requesting a late night transit service for drop off at the Zeta House for safety reasons, but combining ECU with the generally public would not meet this need.
- 15.
16. Leave it alone.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
21. More maps, better marked bus stops, more stops. Make transit more user friendly. I would love to go from my house to Barnes & Noble and the mall.
22. Consolidate city and county services to create an efficient sustainable system to serve population centers.
23. Have it more available and more worthwhile for residents of Greenville and ECU students to use public transportation.
- 24.
- 25.
26. Provide a bus route that goes near the airport.

Comments for Question Six regarding additional suggestions:

1. I never see it so it is obviously of no use to me and never will be.
2. Not consistent, needs vast improvement.

3. There was a comment made that Greenville is proud of ECU. Well this population that is proud of us is NOT the population that will be riding the buses with us as students.
4. You could not provide facts on some of my concerns (safety). Until you can actually provide facts to my questions, do not change anything.
5. Leave ECU Transit alone. It works fine as it is and needs no improvements. Combining GREAT and PATS to improve service to the general public is a good idea, as long as ECU Transit remains unaffected.
6. F—k public buses. Keep the ECU buses.
7. Leave ECU Transit alone. Make city routes if you would like, but ECU should not put up funds for city buses and routes.
8. I refuse to ride with the general public. Too much crime in Greenville. This would provide criminals with easier access to student housing environment.
9. This is a dumb idea and I could think of a place to shove the merger.
10. None.
- 11.
12. Public transit services should solve their own problems and leave ECU Transit services out.
- 13.
14. I feel that campus and regional services should remain separate due to financial and security reasons. I am not willing to use a general public bus at cost to ECU students.
- 15.
16. We don't want this!
17. I am all for public transportation that is safe, effective, and efficient. I attended a university that had excellent public transportation. I had no need for a car. The system provided transportation to every where, even other areas.
18. I think we need a transit center. It is hard for new transit riders to “get into” or find the system. A central location that most routes visit makes it easier to use, get info, and transfer buses.
19. I think the bus services should stay separate.
- 20.
21. Combined pedestrian, bus, bike network to create a Greenville that is not dependent on cars. We need sidewalks, pedestrian corridors, and incentives to use alternatives. Currently there is little incentive for students to use the city services.
22. ECU students should not be charged more for services they already receive. Greenville is not a safe city. I would not feel safe riding a bus with many of its residents. I did not really see any new information presented today and it lacked details. Please provide more on how this will benefit me, an ECU student.
- 23.
- 24.
25. The City probably needs to expand for the citizens.
- 26.

The following section is a verbatim reproduction of the comments received at the **Sheppard Memorial Library** public forum.

Comments for Question One regarding the potential express routes:

- It is not important to me because ECU busline already provides a worthy and timely system that takes me and other students, to shops, PCMH/Brody. If this is what GREAT wants to do, then why not buy your two new buses and form the Express Routes and let ECU keep their current route.
- These looks good especially PCMH
- Yes, it allows people to work in malls and other businesses. Marvelous!
- This route is not that important to me. I have a car and can drive to those places. But, if I was on campus I could take ECU Red/Blue right from the campus. Is this system going to do this also?
- Not important, current situation is great.
- Check with PCMH as to where employees get off for work or need to be at work.
- Need Express to Ayden with stops in Winterville, maybe to Grifton. More service needed to Sam's Club store.
- ECU already provides these services at excellent quality.
- Both would be desirable services. Yes, yes, yes.
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- Neither of these routes are very important to me because I feel what is in place now is fine.

Comments for Question Two regarding Pitt County general public service:

1. Yes, maybe it could be, but do not get ECU Transit service involved. Merge your other public transportation systems and form stronger services outside Greenville.
2. I can't promise to use it, but if the fares sound reasonable and I'd like the system.
3. General public service throughout the county is essential! \$2.50 is affordable for almost everyone.
- 4.
5. I don't want the general public on ECU property.
6. Demand responsive is good but cannot recommend a fixed cost of service until know expenses, grant amounts etc. Not wise to recommend this at this stage.
7. Have Express Service for Football Game from big parking lots to park outside of the town.
8. It doesn't seem necessary when people can commute into the city themselves.
9. Establish base routes to link outlying communities with Greenville. But continue demand- response service as well.
10. Yes! Serve Ayden and Winterville with a shopping route and even entertainment.
11. No, I think if you choose to live out side of the county you expect to ride into the city.

Comments for Question Three regarding the potential UPass:

1. If this happens I would not be willing to pay more student fees. The price would start at \$5.00 and then increase to \$10 and so on. I am perfectly fine with ECU transit system and would need the city bus unless it's after hours or my car is not available.
2. I like it. I would have better service for sure.
3. Yes, for a pass! Not county pass for now! Keep the fees for the students as the same as of now.
4. I do not think this will work for us. Have you ever tried to get on an ECU bus in the morning or between two/three pm? All the buses are standing room only. If we are then to leave campus and pick up more where are they going to go? They will just have to wait for the next one and this already happens with just ECU buses from the commuter lots.
5. No it is not. I would not utilize it enough to pay for the general public use
6. It is worth more research for our people. No it should not cover the county transit service at the beginning stage. Perhaps when city and ECU pass shows to be working, then the county can add in.
- 7.
8. I, personally, would feel unsafe in a bus along side particular Greenville residents.
9. Yes, yes, yes.
10. Yes. \$5.00 is more than fair. Consider even \$25.00.
11. I think for public access some type of card needs to be scanned and not just flashed. Although for the ECU system it works well.

Comments for Question Four regarding the potential for a transit authority:

1. I think I would be more likely to support this authority than to support the city of Greenville taking over ECU routes.
2. Yes, yes.
3. Yes and yes.
4. Greenville and Pitt County should establish this, but leave ECU by itself. Let them deal with staff and students.
- 5.
6. An overall authority would be necessary. I would support more funding to expand services.
- 7.
8. I like having the idea of someone in charge that is directly focused on my behalf, instead of a committee overlooking something that could overwhelm them.
9. Yes, yes.
10. Yes and yes. I would like to see membership to include all towns in this county.
11. I do not recommend it. I would not support additional funding.

Comments for Question Five regarding the Number One Recommendation:

1. I personally like ECU transit system, they're on time. GREAT is not for the many times I have rode their system. Therefore, GREAT needs to work on more/other ways to improve time tables for buses.
2. Personally I would like more direct connection to the transfer point on Reed Street, but I'm getting old.
3. Seven days a week and evening too.
4. I have heard that many people and students like how the ECU buses are run. A complaint is that the city buses are not running fast enough. So if you could fix that and leave ECU alone.
5. Leave it alone.
6. Greater access to service in rural Pitt County.
- 7.
8. I believe that ECU runs smoothly the way it is now, though I can't refer to the GREAT program since I haven't used it.
9. Open PATS to general riders and combine with GREAT and establish fixed route county services.
10. Expand service to include Winterville and Ayden. In the future add Simpson, Farmville, Grimesland and Bethel.
11. I think the image of the systems need to be improved before a lot of this can be implemented , I personally saw a GREAT bus that was parked at Krispy Kream for at least 20 minutes while the driver had a smoke break.

Comments for Question Six regarding additional suggestions:

1. Before trying to make any public transportation changes, GREAT should work on and prove their negative reputation to members of ECU. Then, maybe ECU students would be more likely to try these recommendations.
2. As long as I can ride my bicycle that's my primary transportation. Occasionally I would like bus transport at night.
3. Desperately needed.
4. ECU transit is the best system I have seen. I am a transfer from UNCW and you could not rely on the buses there.
5. Have you thought of the safety of the students?
6. We must expand PATS to offer subsidized transit to the public throughout the county.
- 7.
- 8.
9. Explore linking On-Demand services with adjacent counties at a county line transfer point.
10. For public transit to help the public it must serve all the public. Shopping Express should include Carolina East Mall/Lowes area.
11. I feel that some of the facts that are given are not completely accurate.