



FREDERICKSBURG REGIONAL TRANSIT

History In Motion

PRESS RELEASE

February 24, 2010

FRED TO RETURN TO PRE-JANUARY 18, 2010, SERVICE SCHEDULES IN CAROLINE COUNTY

At its February 23, 2010, meeting the Board of Supervisors for Caroline County unanimously voted to ask FRED Transit to return to its pre-January 18, 2010, service schedules. FRED has acceded to the County's request and agreed to return both the C1 and C2 routes to their old service schedules, effective March 15, 2010.

BACKGROUND

Following discussions with Caroline County officials, last fall FRED Transit proposed a series of adjustments to bus service in the County. The Board of Supervisors approved the proposed changes at its October 13, 2009, meeting. FRED posted notices about the proposed changes in The Free Lance-Star and The Caroline Progress, on FRED's website (www.rideFRED.com), on its buses, and at government offices, and gave the public 30+ days to comment. No comments were received. The adjusted schedules went into effect on January 18, 2010.

Shortly thereafter, a number of Caroline County residents expressed concerns to County officials about the changes in bus service. The main concerns related to the loss of early morning service between Bowling Green and Carmel Church and to the elimination of single-bus service to Fredericksburg. These concerns were aired at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 26, 2010. The Board took no formal action at that meeting.

Following the January 26 meeting, FRED requested specific guidance from the County on the course of action it wanted FRED to take, and offered three options for the Board's consideration. The three options were: 1) return the C1 and C2 routes to their old schedules; 2) continue operating the new schedules for three months and evaluate the results then; and 3) reduce service on the C2 route and add service to the C1 route in an effort to address the concerns raised by the community.

The Board originally scheduled a follow-up discussion for its February 9, 2010, meeting, which was cancelled due to a snowstorm. The discussion was rescheduled for the Board's February 23, 2010, meeting. After a brief review of the issue and options, the Board voted unanimously to request FRED to return the C1 and C2 routes to their old service schedules. Representing FRED, Arnold Levine, Manager of Policy, Planning and Compliance, acceded to the Board's request. The old schedules will be reinstated effective March 15, 2010, which allows time for public notice, schedule printing, adjustments to driver assignments and the removal of certain bus stop signs.