Homewood council to hear ClasTran proposal for replacing lost paratransit service

HOMEWOOD, Alabama -- City council's finance committee on Monday will hear a separate paratransit company's proposal for filling the daily gap left by transit service cuts, the committee's chairman said.

Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority officials have said they will reduce bus and paratransit service in the city on Dec.

Florida State defensive coordinator Charles Kelly not going anywhere says FSU recruit

Alabama, Nick Saban appeal to four-star Mississippi cornerback Nigel Knott

Wanted woman allegedly stole $40,000 from Hoover Wal-Mart

Hoping to become Alabama's second Heisman Trophy winner, Derrick Henry's heart is in a Florida hospital

This city council may be the worst ever

AL.com All-Access: How important is it for Auburn to win the Birmingham Bowl? (315 comments)

Santa Trump is coming out
Lakeshore Foundation hosted the Design4Disability Charrette on August 25, 2015 thanks to a grant from the National Center for Mobility Management. Community partners and advocate groups met to discuss ways to improve access to health and transportation for individuals with a disability.

A full media recap of the event is available on the following platforms:

- Instagram (@NCHPAD)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com/ncpad)
- Facebook (www.facebook.com/nchpad)
To synthesize is to combine a number of things, into a coherent whole. The overall challenge was to develop an Innovative Mobility Solutions to Health Care Services. The input we received from the four groups on August 25th and the subsequent facilitator review of the input, provides an excellent foundation for moving forward with our charge of developing solutions to address patient challenges in accessing primary and preventive care.

The failure to ensure that optimal, individual-level health is achievable for all can cause a community to experience an absence of health equity. Among people with disability (PWD), access to transportation is a major barrier to maintaining medical appointments and participating in health promoting behaviors. PWD are at a greater risk of experiencing health disparities than any other demographic group in the country. This design approach will begin to formulate a solution.
THEMES THROUGHOUT ALL OF THE IDEAS

- Transportation Equity for People With Disabilities
- Easy Accessible Convenient
- Sector Coordination - Business, Medical, Land Use Transportation.
- Expansion of Transportation Options for All
Ann August out as BJCTA director

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority board Friday voted to accept Executive Director Ann August’s retirement effective immediately, just days after August announced she would be leaving when her contract ended in December.

The five board members who were present voted to accept her resignation immediately. Barbara Murdock, the BJCTA’s chief of staff, will serve as interim executive director.

“Ann August and I have served together for over three years,” said Board Chairman Patrick Sellers. “We worked very well together, and she has done a great job as executive director of BJCTA.”

Birmingham City Councilwoman Kim Raffi said she was disappointed in a public statement by August that suggested she was micromanaging and inappropriate conduits of power.

“That is just not true. I am particularly disappointed in the way she has treated Birmingham on this board who have failed this community,” Raffi said.

She said she was frustrated, disgusted and sad. “This is the saddest day for the future of the BJCTA,” she said.

Officially, however, August said she was optimistic about her stay with the transit agency.

“On a personal level, I am very sad to leave Birmingham,” August said. “But I have always been an optimist and I truly feel that the best is yet to come.”

Officials work on plan to keep MAX buses rolling in Fairfield despite $400,000 in missed payments

Passengers ride the MAX No. 4a Fairfield route. (AL.com file photo / Mike D. Smith)
Birmingham gets $20 million TIGER grant for Bus Rapid Transit System

BY ABC 33/40 | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH 2015

Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Theresa McMillan today announced that the Department of Transportation will provide $20 million in TIGER funds to support development of a 15-mile bus rapid transit system that will aid city-wide revitalization efforts in downtown Birmingham.

Connecting Our Communities to Opportunities: In selecting projects, Secretary Foxx prioritized the extent to which the proposed project strengthens access to opportunities through transportation improvements. The Department seeks to enhance long-term employment opportunities for all Americans by investing in transportation projects that better connect communities to centers of employment, education, and services, especially in economically distressed areas. Examples include:

- A $10 million grant to develop complete streets and a linear park trail in Kalispell, Montana that will catalyze redevelopment in the heart of the community by relocating rail serving the neighboring industrial park and removing rail from the downtown area.
- A $2.0 million grant to assist in the construction of critical roads and sidewalks in the Native Village of Point Hope, Alaska, and the purchase of ADA-compliant transit buses to provide accessible transportation throughout the community.
- A $20 million grant to develop a new 15-mile bus rapid transit (BRT) line in Birmingham, Alabama, connecting Birmingham’s residents, especially low-income citizens, to employment centers, educational opportunities, and community services.
- A $15 million grant to more than double the existing streetcar system in Tacoma, Washington, better connecting the downtown to major employment, medical, education, and other institutions.
- A $20.0 million grant to construct transit facilities in growing rural areas of Texas, and to buy replacement transit vehicles that will provide service to rural areas, and that will have improved safety and accessibility features for persons with disabilities.
Uber planning Birmingham launch after ridesharing ordinance passes

BIRMINGHAM, Ala — Uber, the ridesharing company, will soon be available in Birmingham.

Tuesday, the Birmingham City Council approved an ordinance to allow the company to operate in the city.

The approval comes with a six-month trial period for Uber. Some councilors, however, are upset the ordinance does not include business license rules for Uber drivers.

It remains unknown when the company will start operating in Mountain Brook and Homewood.

As for the Magic City, drivers could soon start making their rounds by the end of the year.

"I've seen friends on Facebook that use it in other cities and they seem to like it," Rachel Roberts said.

Roberts is thrilled about Uber coming to Birmingham.

"Given the opportunity, I would use it over a cab. I just think it would be more personal and I heard it's more convenient too," Roberts said.

The process of getting an Uber ride somewhere should be simple. First, download the Uber app to your mobile smartphone. Once the app is downloaded and you've registered your account, your phone's GPS will detect your location and find the nearest Uber driver.

"The prices are set per minute per mile, and before riders even get into a vehicle, fare estimate is by quickly clicking a button saying where they're coming from and where they're going," Uber's general manager Tom Maguire said.

Maguire told WVTM 13 the help-wanted signs are out for drivers. Anyone interested will go through intense background checks.
Do you have a disability?

If so, join us to discuss ways to improve access to health and transportation in your local area.

Lakeshore Foundation is hosting a Design4Disability Charrette thanks to a grant from the National Center for Mobility Management on December 1, 2015. We want you! Add your voice to the conversation regarding this important issue.

What is a Charrette you say?

A charrette (pronounced [shuh-rät]), is an intense period of design or planning activity. Charrettes serve as a way of quickly generating a design solution while integrating the skills and interests of a diverse group of people.

Be prepared to roll up your sleeves while working with others to brainstorm ideas and solutions in a creative way! This might include the use of magazines, bright colors, and most importantly thinking outside the box.

Join the fun!

$25 gift card to the first 40 registrants.

Lunch will be provided.

December 1, 2015
9 am – 4 pm

Lakeshore Foundation
Sington Room
4000 Ridgeway Drive
Birmingham, Alabama
35209

Register online at billy.com/design4disability