DATE: March 17, 2010

TO: Judy Mueller, Public Works Director

FROM: Bill Watterson, Transit Manager

SUBJECT: Feasibility of Adding Greenbrier Loop to Route 9

This memo reviews options considered for additional coverage (an extra loop being added) to the Route 9 effective August 21, 2010.

BACKGROUND

The City Manager directed that the Transit Division consider an additional loop in the Greenbrier Neighborhood to be added to Route 9 service to Charlottesville High School.

Route 9 began service in August 2008. Ridership is growing – during the first 8 months of FY 2009 there were 22,600 passenger boardings. During the first 8 months of FY 2010 there were 26,185 passenger boardings – an increase of 3,585 or 15.9 percent compared to FY 2009.

Three specific loops have been tested:

(1) No stop at CHS, instead travel Grove Road to Melbourne Road (left turn) to Kenwood Lane (left turn) to Yorktown Drive (right turn) heading south on Grove Road to complete route. This loop was timed at 5 minutes. Route 9 roundtrip of 62 minutes.
(2) Stop at MLK PAC and then return to Grove Road loop as outlined in (1) above. This stop-loop combination was timed at 8 minutes. Route 9 roundtrip of 65 minutes.
(3) Stop at MLK PAC and then travel through the CHS parking lot to Melbourne Road and then complete the remainder of the loop as outlined in (1) above. This stop loop combination was timed at 8 minutes. It is believed that this loop could take as much as 5 minutes additional (13 minutes) when the parking lot is congested. Route 9 roundtrip of 65 to 70 minutes.

RECOMMENDATION

None of the three loops can be added to Route 9 operating in 60 minutes roundtrip. The first option tested, together with the rest of the route, is expected to take 62 minutes roundtrip. However, this option would not provide a convenient location for a CTS stop at CHS.

Because one of the primary purposes of Route 9 is to provide fixed-route service to CHS, staff is not able to recommend any of the three options because each either degrades service quality to CHS and/or creates a schedule that cannot be maintained.