



**TOWN OF
MOORESVILLE**

NORTH CAROLINA

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

To: Bill Thunberg, Mayor
Town Board of Commissioners & the members of the Mooresville Planning Board

From: The Mooresville Environmental Protection Commission

Date: May 14, 2008

Subject: 83X

The Mooresville Environmental Protection Commission would like to take this opportunity to formally voice our support for the continuation of the 83X commuter bus service. We feel the availability of public transportation options is a critical aspect to any environmentally responsible public policy. The 83X commuter bus provides both direct and indirect benefits for the residents of Mooresville that justify your continued support.

To demonstrate our commitment to finding a solution that keeps the 83X in service, the EPC would like to offer to lead a task force to evaluate opportunities to improve the bus service while meeting the town's fiscal requirements. The EPC has the capacity to perform an environmental assessment, cost / benefit analysis, or facilitate other requests at the Town Board's discretion to frame the benefit of the 83X service. There are realistic opportunities to increase ridership, lower cost per rider, and identify additional funding sources, but developing these solutions takes time.

There are environmental benefits and a direct link to air quality standards that need to be considered before discontinuing the 83X bus service.

Environmental Benefits

The use of public transportation reduces pollution. According to the American Public Transportation Association, public transportation produces 95 percent less carbon monoxide, and nearly 50 percent less carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide, per passenger mile than private vehicles. The benefits of clean air are not limited to those who ride the bus but are accrued by all residents of Mooresville. The American Lung Association ranked the Charlotte Metro Area 14th on its list of cities with the worst ozone air pollution. Improving air quality in Mooresville requires promoting the use of public transportation not reducing it.

Federal Funding

The availability of Federal Highway funding is tied directly to air quality standards. Public transportation is a key element of transportation plans required to show how the Charlotte metro area will move from current non-attainment status to meeting Federal air quality standards. Removing the 83X bus route makes it more difficult for the area to meet Federal air quality standards and jeopardizes future highway funding.

It is the position of the EPC that the 83X commuter bus service provides a positive environmental benefit to the Town of Mooresville. Please continue to support and fund the 83X bus while giving the EPC a chance to find a solution that is both environmentally responsible and fiscally sound.

Sincerely,
Mooresville Environmental Protection Commission