

January 5, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AppalCART, the local public transportation authority serving Watauga County, reported ridership of 1,493,856 passenger trips in 739,635 miles of service during calendar year 2011. This was a 21% increase from the year before which had 1,230,719 passenger trips in 701,404 miles of service during 2010. Hours of service for the transportation authority increased 4.5% during the same time period. Miles of service increased 5.4% over those delivered in 2010.

AppalCART's Transportation Director, Chris Turner said "the 21% increase amounted to an additional 263,137 recorded trips over the total for 2010." Turner attributed the increase to a combination of things: two new hybrid buses, a streamlined Red Route, more hours on the State Farm Shuttle, and continuation of the fare free program on the Authority's bus routes.

While AppalCART is best known for its bus service, it also provides door-to-door van service through out Watauga County under contracts with human service agencies, and these routes are available to the fare paying public. Both bus and van routes are listed in AppalCART's printed schedules and on their appalcart.com website.