



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RATP Dev Selected to Manage Asheville, North Carolina's Transit Service**

**Fort Worth, TX (August 14, 2017)** – Today, RATP Dev, a global leader in public transit, announced it has been awarded the contract to manage Asheville Redefines Transit (ART), the transit services for the city of Asheville, North Carolina. The City of Asheville selected RATP Dev through a national competitive process that awarded the contract based on best value procurement. Contract services are set to begin September 23, 2017 and will cover an initial period of four years with two additional two-year renewal options. RATP Dev has appointed Bernadette Townsend to serve as ART's new general manager.

Under the terms of the contract, RATP Dev will directly supervise ART's daily operations for the Fixed Route bus services in Buncombe County. Presently, ART has 22 biodiesel buses in service, seven of which are hybrid, and currently run 18 routes throughout the area, servicing more than 1.4 million riders annually.

"The City of Asheville is delighted to be working with RATP Dev," said Elias Mathes, Asheville's Transit Project Coordinator. "The incoming team certainly has a proven track record of successfully building and managing mass transit systems in North Carolina, and we believe they are the ideal operators to manage ART and continue our initiative to provide a more efficient, tech savvy, and greener transit system for our community."

ART is RATP Dev's third contract in North Carolina, the others being the Charlotte Area Transit (CATS) in the Queen City's metropolitan area and Buncombe County's Mountain Mobility.

"RATP Dev America is excited to be working in more locations in North Carolina, and bring our worldwide expertise to Asheville," said Blaine Rigler, VP of RATP Dev Bus Division. "We are honored that the city council trusts our leadership and experience to uphold and improve the fixed route bus services in Asheville and throughout Buncombe County moving forward."

Located in western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville is vibrant and historic city with a thriving arts scene and easy access to North Carolina's natural splendor. With a population of approximately 425,000 residents in the metropolitan area, and home to the University of North Carolina at Asheville, the city has growing public transit needs and is seeking to preserve the beauty of their stretch of the Blue Ridge Mountains with their on-going sustainable transit initiatives.

To learn more about RATP Dev, visit [www.ratpdevamerica.com](http://www.ratpdevamerica.com).

### **About RATP Dev**

Founded in 2002, RATP Dev operates and maintains urban transportation systems in 14 countries on four continents (United Kingdom, France, Italy, Switzerland, Algeria, Morocco, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, India, China, South Korea, the Philippines, and the United States of America). With more than 1.5 billion passengers travelling on its networks every year, RATP Dev demonstrates every day its extensive and renowned expertise in a wide range of mobility services, ranging from rail, regional express rail, tramway, to bus, cable car and sightseeing activities. RATP Dev leverages in France, outside of Paris, and across international markets the technical expertise and experience of RATP Group, the leader in driverless and tramway operations and operator of the Paris network, one of the largest public transportation networks in the world . In North America RATP Dev employs over 3,800 team members transporting more than 78 million passengers in 18 states and operates a wide range of services.

###