

Officials happy with first year of Alley to the Valley

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — As the city of Seneca prepares for today's conclusion of Alley to the Valley's inaugural season, officials say they are pleased with what has taken place.

"It's grown with each week," city administrator Scott Moulder said. "It's not as big as I had dreamed from the very beginning, but that's just me — I'm a go-big-or-go-home kind of guy, and I want things to be perfect from day one. But it's go-

ing to take time to grow, and we'll have briefings at the end of this year and maybe talk about changes for next year that maybe we can improve upon."



Moulder

But Moulder said a number of people have told him how much they've enjoyed the service.

"You can get on the bus right here (in downtown

SEE HAPPY,

HAPPY: 'We want to make sure we're using our resources'

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Seneca) and be walking to the stadium in 15 minutes," he said. "Everybody that gets off the shuttle bus talks about how easy and quick and convenient it was compared to driving in. So, we're excited about the program, but we'll talk about improvements we might want to make for next year."

Moulder has already said he is 80 to 85 percent certain that Alley in the Valley will return next year in some capacity, but admits it's an expensive proposition. While hospitality and accommodations tax money are used, there is still staff time, CATbus time, overtime and the big screen at Norton Thompson Park where people can watch the game without getting on the bus.

"We want to make sure we're using our resources and making it worthwhile," Moulder said.

City events coordinator Riley Johnson said he feels the event, given a little time, "will get better every year."

"It's got a lot of momentum right now, but we may come up with some different ideas next year for the away games," Johnson said.

One possible change could be using the big screen at Norton Thompson

Park only for away games.

CATbus general manager Keith Moody said he is pleased that Seneca included the electric bus system in the Alley to the Valley events.

"I believe it's been a win-win for all the partners — the city of Seneca, Clemson University, CATbus and especially to the public and community," Moody said. "There is no stress of having to drive to and from the games."

Moody said that while more than 1,000 passengers have been taken to and from the games, he feels the word is just getting out as people are continuing to ask questions.

"I think it will continue to increase as more and more people find out about it," he said, adding he hopes to sit down with the city and discuss any recommendations or changes, if any.

Because the buses are 100 percent battery electric buses with zero emissions, no fuel costs were involved. Moody said that means not only fewer cars having to drive to the games but, most importantly, a cleaner environment.

"The common vehicle would release a lot of CO2 and other pollutants," Moody said.

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