



Connect Transit will livestream the Board of Trustees meetings when a YouTube link is provided on the agenda. Anyone who attends the meeting or addresses a public meeting during Public Comment time will be heard and may be seen on the livestream. Any audio and video captured will be in the recording.

If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, please do not attend the meeting.

AGENDA

Connect Transit Board of Trustees, Regular Session

May 27, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.

Connect Transit Board Room, 351 Wylie Drive, Normal, IL 61761

[YouTube Link for May 27, 2025](#)

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
 - a. Attendance by Other Means/Virtual – Roll Call Vote
- C. Pledge of Allegiance and Mission Statement
- D. Public Comments
- E. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Financial Information for April 2025
 - b. Monthly Statistical Reports for April 2025
 - c. Cardinal Infrastructure; Federal Report
 - d. Cornerstone; Illinois Weekly Update
- F. Committee Reports
- G. New Business
 - a. FY24 Audit Results – Informational
 - b. Recommendation for Purchase of Service Vehicles – Roll Call Vote
 - c. Recommendation for Purchase of Ram ProMaster Microtransit Vans – Roll Call Vote
 - d. Recommendation for FY26 Health Insurance Renewal – Roll Call Vote
 - e. Recommendation for FY26 Property & Casualty Insurance Renewal – Roll Call Vote
 - f. Marketing Plan Presentation – Informational
- H. Chairman’s Report
- I. Managing Director’s Report
- J. Trustee Comments
- K. Executive Session: N/A
- L. Adjournment

Mission:

Connect Transit provides safe, reliable transportation and access to opportunity to strengthen and enrich individual lives, our community, the economy, and the environment.





April 2025

Financial Reports



351 Wylie Drive, Normal, IL 61761



309-828-9833

connect-transit.com



info@connect-transit.com



Connect Transit Cash Disbursement Report April 2025

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
1st Ayd Corporation	00060387	18-Apr-25	\$282.82	Cleaning Supplies
A.T.U. - C.O.P.E.	00060326	04-Apr-25	\$260.26	Payroll Deduction
ABC Bus Companies	00060327	04-Apr-25	\$1,636.75	Bus Parts
ABC Bus Companies	00060388	18-Apr-25	\$5,257.62	Bus Parts
Ace-Hi Glass Co.	00060328	04-Apr-25	\$678.00	Glass
Advance Auto Parts	00060390	18-Apr-25	\$1,363.52	Maintenance Supplies
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00060329	04-Apr-25	\$7,275.60	Payroll Deduction
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00060391	18-Apr-25	\$500.00	Payroll Deduction
Amazon Capital Service	00060330	04-Apr-25	\$1,159.71	Bus Parts, Comp Hard., Mats & Supplies, & Off. Supplies
Amazon Capital Service	00060392	18-Apr-25	\$655.62	Bus Parts, Comp Hard., Mats & Supplies, & Off. Supplies
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$249.99	Garage Maintenance Equipment
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$33.38	Building Maintenance
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$601.42	Office Supplies
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$3,667.13	Software Licensing
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$388.99	Dues & Subscriptions
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$6,283.00	Travel & Meetings
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$1,455.16	Employee Recognition
Bill.com	ACH	01-Apr-25	\$122.88	Safety/Training
Blitt and Gaines, P.C.	00060331	04-Apr-25	\$380.38	Payroll Deduction
Blitt and Gaines, P.C.	00060393	18-Apr-25	\$380.38	Payroll Deduction
BloNo Pizza	00060385	07-Apr-25	\$204.00	Travel & Meetings
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois	00060431	21-Apr-25	\$169,783.25	Insurance
Blue Springs, Inc	00060394	18-Apr-25	\$180.00	Portable Restrooms
B-N Economic Development Council	00060386	11-Apr-25	\$75.00	Travel & Meetings
Bo Roberts	00060332	04-Apr-25	\$59.98	Uniform Reimbursement
Bonaco, Inc.	00060333	04-Apr-25	\$373.00	Bus Parts
Bridgestone Americas	00060334	04-Apr-25	\$80.00	Tires
Burden Enterprises LLC	00060335	04-Apr-25	\$1,000.00	Tools & Equipment
Carle	00060336	04-Apr-25	\$135.75	Empl Physicals & Drug Testing
Carlson Siding & Construction	00060395	18-Apr-25	\$375.00	Building Maintenance
CDM Smith Inc.	00060337	04-Apr-25	\$397,682.76	A & E
Checkr, Inc.	00060396	18-Apr-25	\$592.23	New Hire Background Checks
CIRBN, LLC	00060397	18-Apr-25	\$147.13	Internet
CIT Trucks, LLC - Normal	00060339	04-Apr-25	\$9,003.37	Bus Parts
CIT Trucks, LLC - Normal	00060398	18-Apr-25	\$1,341.46	Bus Parts
City of Bloomington(Water)	00060340	04-Apr-25	\$1,186.35	Utilities
City of Bloomington(Water)	00060399	18-Apr-25	\$143.64	Utilities
Clark Baird Smith, LLP	00060400	18-Apr-25	\$8,600.00	Legal Service
Clean Exhaust Specialist	00060341	04-Apr-25	\$2,106.00	Bus Parts
Commerce	ACH	10-Apr-25	\$450.21	Bank Fees
Cornerstone Government Affairs	00060342	04-Apr-25	\$4,000.00	Consulting
Culligan Water Conditioning	00060343	04-Apr-25	\$213.50	Bottled Water Service
Cummins Sales and Service	00060344	04-Apr-25	\$49,819.67	Bus Parts
David Singletary	00060401	18-Apr-25	\$92.38	Uniform Reimbursement
David White	00060345	04-Apr-25	\$562.80	Travel & Meetings
Don Owen Tire Service, Inc.	00060402	18-Apr-25	\$45.00	Bus Parts
Eagle Automotive	00060346	04-Apr-25	\$175.24	Bus Parts
Eagle Automotive	00060403	18-Apr-25	\$135.66	Bus Parts
East Penn Manufacturing Co.	00060347	04-Apr-25	\$4,141.08	Bus Parts
Fastenal Company	00060348	04-Apr-25	\$5.54	Bus Parts
Fasteners Etc.	00060349	04-Apr-25	\$1,031.32	Maintenance Supplies
Galls, LLC	00060350	04-Apr-25	\$863.14	Admin & Operations Uniforms
Garber Heating & A/C	00060351	04-Apr-25	\$7,153.17	HVAC
Gatekeeper Systems, Inc.	00060404	18-Apr-25	\$1,151.10	Bus Parts
Genfare, LLC	00060352	04-Apr-25	\$2,611.75	Software and Hardware
Genfare, LLC	ACH	10-Apr-25	\$10.00	Pass Refund
Genfare, LLC	ACH	17-Apr-25	\$17.00	Pass Refund



Connect Transit Cash Disbursement Report April 2025

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
Genfare, LLC	00060405	18-Apr-25	\$594.75	Software and Hardware
Genfare, LLC	ACH	28-Apr-25	\$10.00	Pass Refund
Getz Fire Equipment	00060353	04-Apr-25	\$2,539.80	Building Maintenance
Gillig LLC	00060354	04-Apr-25	\$1,515.99	Bus Parts
Glenda Lafever	00060355	04-Apr-25	\$81.60	Uniform Reimbursement
Grainger	00060356	04-Apr-25	\$135.96	Office Cabinets
Grainger	00060406	18-Apr-25	\$315.76	Office Cabinets
Grosso's Garage	00060407	18-Apr-25	\$709.19	Support Vehicles
HicksGas Bloomington LLC	00060357	04-Apr-25	\$1,034.07	LP Gas
HicksGas Bloomington LLC	00060408	18-Apr-25	\$1,248.69	LP Gas
Illinois Department of Revenue	ACH	07-Apr-25	\$17,289.08	State Taxes
Illinois Department of Revenue	ACH	22-Apr-25	\$17,487.11	State Taxes
Illinois Dept of Revenue Wage Levy Unit	00060358	04-Apr-25	\$372.08	Payroll Deduction
Illinois Dept of Revenue Wage Levy Unit	00060409	18-Apr-25	\$172.94	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement	ACH	03-Apr-25	\$980.81	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement	ACH	17-Apr-25	\$809.21	Payroll Deduction
Joshua Noffsinger	00060359	04-Apr-25	\$70.68	Uniform Reimbursement
Justin Allen	00060410	18-Apr-25	\$10.00	Travel & Meetings
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00060360	04-Apr-25	\$45,381.31	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00060411	18-Apr-25	\$47,543.81	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Kirk's Automotive, Inc	00060361	04-Apr-25	\$1,671.57	Bus Parts
Menards	00060362	04-Apr-25	\$101.71	Materials & Supplies
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00060324	02-Apr-25	\$1,269.00	Bus Parts
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00060325	02-Apr-25	\$1,269.00	Bus Parts
Miller Janitor Supply	00060363	04-Apr-25	\$51.40	Maintenance Supplies
Miller Janitor Supply	00060412	18-Apr-25	\$710.40	Maintenance Supplies
Missionsquare	ACH	03-Apr-25	\$35,863.26	Retirement
Missionsquare	ACH	17-Apr-25	\$35,142.07	Retirement
Mitchell 1	00060413	18-Apr-25	\$1,788.00	Software Licensing
Mohawk Mfg. & Supply Co.	00060364	04-Apr-25	\$50.77	Bus Parts
Morris Avenue Garage	00060365	04-Apr-25	\$160.00	Vehicle Inspection
Morris Avenue Garage	00060414	18-Apr-25	\$120.00	Vehicle Inspection
Motion Industries, Inc.	00060366	04-Apr-25	\$177.27	Bus Parts
Napa Auto Parts	00060367	04-Apr-25	\$69.34	Bus Parts
Napa Auto Parts	00060415	18-Apr-25	\$1,207.32	Bus Parts
Nicor Gas	00060368	04-Apr-25	\$4,728.20	Utilities
Oberlander Alarm Systems, Inc.	00060369	04-Apr-25	\$230.00	Security Alarm Service Fee
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	00060370	04-Apr-25	\$156.22	Office Supplies
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	00060416	18-Apr-25	\$341.96	Office Supplies
Orkin Pest Control	00060371	04-Apr-25	\$673.00	Pest Control
OSF Medical Group - Occupational Health	00060417	18-Apr-25	\$480.00	Drug Testing
Payroll	ACH	03-Apr-25	\$288,771.23	
Payroll	ACH	17-Apr-25	\$300,572.80	
Prairie Signs	00060418	18-Apr-25	\$498.00	Support Vehicles
Purchase Power	00060372	04-Apr-25	\$641.06	Postage
Remix Technologies	00060373	04-Apr-25	\$35,300.00	Software & Tech Support -
Republic Services # 368	00060374	04-Apr-25	\$1,036.89	Garbage Disposal
Roanoke Motor Co. Inc.	00060419	18-Apr-25	\$356.07	Bus Parts
Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc	00060420	18-Apr-25	\$777.20	Solvent Tank
Safetylane Automotive Equipment	00060375	04-Apr-25	\$323.16	Garage Equipment Repair
Sam Leman Ford	00060376	04-Apr-25	\$43.92	Outside Repair
Sam Leman Ford	00060421	18-Apr-25	\$79.13	Outside Repair
Southtown Wrecker Service	00060377	04-Apr-25	\$370.00	Towing
Stratus Networks	00060422	18-Apr-25	\$3,363.65	Internet
Team Torque	00060378	04-Apr-25	\$120.00	Garage Equipment Repair
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00060380	04-Apr-25	\$8,815.04	Bus Parts
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00060423	18-Apr-25	\$6,806.96	Bus Parts



Connect Transit
Cash Disbursement Report
April 2025

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
Town of Normal-Utility Billing	00060381	04-Apr-25	\$618.19	Utilities
TRAVELERS	00060424	18-Apr-25	\$5,759.98	Property Damage
TX Child Support SDU	00060382	04-Apr-25	\$643.59	Payroll Deduction
TX Child Support SDU	00060425	18-Apr-25	\$643.59	Payroll Deduction
U.S. Bank Equipment Finance	00060383	04-Apr-25	\$2,871.73	Office Equipment
United States Treasury	ACH	03-Apr-25	\$95,095.11	Federal Taxes
United States Treasury	ACH	4/221/2025	\$96,338.98	Federal Taxes
Verizon Wireless	00060426	18-Apr-25	\$5,428.65	Mobile Data Terminals for SS
Vestis Services, LLC (fka Aramark)	00060384	04-Apr-25	\$668.10	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Vestis Services, LLC (fka Aramark)	00060427	18-Apr-25	\$303.41	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Via Mobility, LLC	00060428	18-Apr-25	\$2,520.00	Consulting
Wherry Machine and Welding, Inc	00060429	18-Apr-25	\$360.00	Outside Repair
William Slaughter	00060430	18-Apr-25	\$54.48	Uniform Reimbursement
		Total	\$1,781,924.34	

Bloomington Normal Public Transit Balance Sheet

Division: 99 Board Reports

As of: 4/30/2025

Fiscal Year: 2025 Period: 10 Apr-2025

Assets

Current Assets

Checking and Savings	\$7,670,741.80
Accounts Receivable	\$3,275,452.95
Inventory Asset - Fuel	\$96,449.88
Inventory Asset - Parts	\$478,651.41
Inventory Asset - Tires	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	\$634,007.59

Total Current Assets \$12,155,303.63

Fixed Assets \$31,375,842.55

Total Assets \$43,531,146.18

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$404,642.39
Payroll Liabilities	\$1,556,124.52
Contracts	\$0.00
Due to Illinois Funds Account	\$0.00
Deferred Revenue	\$1,302,580.45
Deficit Funding Advance	\$0.00

Total Liabilities \$3,263,347.36

EQUITY

Fixed Asset Equity	\$12,539,853.77
Unreserved Fund Equity	\$6,750,412.62
Underground Petroleum Storage	\$20,000.00

Total Equity \$19,310,266.39

Retained Earnings \$20,957,532.43

Total Liabilities & Equity \$43,531,146.18

Bloomington Normal Public Transit Income Statement With Approved Budget

From Fiscal Year: 2025	From Period 10	Division: 98 Operating Profit/Loss	As of: 4/30/2025	
Thru Fiscal Year: 2025	Thru Period 10		Jul-2024	Apr-2025
			Apr-2025	Approved Budget
Operating Revenue				
Passenger Fares	\$39,879.13	7.35%	\$449,006.60	\$542,500.00
ISU Contract Fare	\$48,670.68	8.33%	\$486,706.80	\$584,048.00
Other Contract Fares	\$18,645.61	9.32%	\$191,898.55	\$200,000.00
Advertising Revenue	\$11,466.67	9.78%	\$110,741.71	\$117,300.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$12,671.93	133.39%	\$184,754.27	\$9,500.00
Total Operating Revenue	\$131,334.02	9.04%	\$1,423,107.93	\$1,453,348.00
Operating Expenses				
Operators Wages	\$652,290.26	7.65%	\$6,727,102.42	\$8,529,928.00
Maintenance Wages	\$123,459.97	7.97%	\$1,285,782.93	\$1,549,005.00
Administration Wages	\$103,765.39	7.61%	\$1,012,077.49	\$1,362,807.00
Employer Payroll Tax Expense	\$69,630.26	7.57%	\$734,381.26	\$920,380.00
Retirement Plan	\$33,155.79	5.63%	\$353,939.88	\$589,087.00
Group Insurance	\$181,027.25	7.58%	\$1,781,239.29	\$2,386,762.00
Uniform Expense	\$2,838.36	5.28%	\$32,945.99	\$53,775.00
Professional Services	\$70,311.83	20.53%	\$417,462.30	\$342,500.00
Outside Repair-Labor	\$37,023.70	28.76%	\$210,474.92	\$128,750.00
Contract Maintenance Services	\$22,704.31	9.65%	\$169,919.24	\$235,376.00
Custodial Services	\$1,450.95	7.13%	\$23,653.48	\$20,360.00
Employee Recruiting/Testing/Temp Help	\$543.00	1.21%	\$10,948.00	\$45,000.00
Fuel	\$86,615.49	5.83%	\$842,761.67	\$1,486,212.00
Lubricants	\$17,862.28	20.46%	\$78,903.49	\$87,316.00
Tires	\$4,823.27	8.07%	\$45,385.15	\$59,781.00
Bus Repair Parts	\$49,022.36	9.54%	\$586,167.00	\$514,093.00
Other Materials & Supplies	\$8,157.01	10.43%	\$75,854.78	\$78,200.00
Shelters/Signs/Shop Tools	\$1,070.34	5.35%	\$15,488.27	\$20,000.00
Computer and Office Supplies	\$29,884.15	6.56%	\$286,462.30	\$455,419.00
Utilities	\$19,995.46	15.45%	\$148,804.67	\$129,400.00
Corporate Insurance	\$48,386.07	7.68%	\$535,809.80	\$630,100.00
Dues/Subscriptions/Fees	\$600.00	1.21%	\$23,281.94	\$49,650.00
Printing/Marketing/Training	\$18,604.25	4.89%	\$263,163.36	\$380,425.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,583,221.75	7.89%	\$15,662,009.63	\$20,054,326.00
Operating Assistance				
Operating Deficit Before Subsidies and Grants	(\$1,451,887.73)	7.81%	(\$14,238,901.70)	(\$18,600,978.00)
City of Bloomington Operating Assistance	\$75,833.33	8.33%	\$758,333.30	\$910,000.00
Town of Normal Operating Assistance	\$49,166.66	8.33%	\$491,666.60	\$590,000.00
Illinois Downstate Operating Assistance	\$1,021,944.00	7.84%	\$10,070,702.62	\$13,035,312.00
FTA 5307 Operating Assistance	\$291,455.41	7.17%	\$2,738,575.41	\$4,065,666.00
Total Operating Assistance	\$1,438,399.40	7.73%	\$14,059,277.93	\$18,600,978.00



April 2025	Current Month	Month in Prior Year	Percent Change	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date	% Change YTD
System Statistics:						
System Ridership	222,855	217,607	2.41%	1,942,123	2,009,539	-3.35%
Fixed Ridership	208,096	203,410	2.30%	1,799,165	1,869,472	-3.76%
Mobility Ridership	10,156	9,513	6.76%	95,245	95,879	-0.66%
FLEX Ridership	4,603	4,684	-1.73%	47,713	44,188	7.98%
System Service Hours	14,659	14,279	2.66%	141,272	147,587	-4.28%
Fixed Service Hours	9,241	9,270	-0.31%	90,296	97,173	-7.08%
Mobility Service Hours	4,387	3,955	10.92%	40,657	40,603	0.13%
FLEX Service Hours	1,031	1,054	-2.18%	10,319	9,811	5.17%
System Service Miles	179,564	174,849	2.70%	1,736,248	1,752,938	-0.95%
Fixed Service Miles	111,476	111,335	0.13%	1,094,814	1,140,577	-4.01%
Mobility Service Miles	53,913	50,786	6.16%	503,249	503,169	0.02%
FLEX Service Miles	14,175	12,728	11.37%	138,185	109,192	26.55%
System Revenue Vehicles	59	60	-1.67%	64	67	-4.48%
Fixed Revenue Vehicles	33	33	0.00%	38	40	-5.00%
Mobility Revenue Vehicles	21	22	-4.55%	21	22	-4.55%
FLEX Revenue Vehicles	5	5	0.00%	5	5	0.00%
System Miles/Revenue Vehicle	3,043	2,914	4.44%	27,129	26,163	3.69%
Fixed Miles/Revenue Vehicle	3,378	3,374	0.13%	28,811	28,514	1.04%
Mobility Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,567	2,308	11.21%	23,964	22,871	4.78%
FLEX Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,835	2,546	11.37%	27,637	21,838	26.55%
System Efficiencies:						
System Ridership/Service Hour	15.20	15.24	-0.24%	13.75	13.62	0.97%
Fixed Ridership/Revenue Hour	22.52	21.94	2.62%	19.93	19.24	3.57%
Mobility Ridership/Revenue Hour	2.32	2.41	-3.75%	2.34	2.36	-0.79%
FLEX Ridership/Revenue Hour	4.46	4.44	0.46%	4.62	4.50	2.67%
System Percent On-Time Trips	88.02%	91.61%	-3.92%	90.17%	91.93%	-1.91%
Fixed Percent On-Time Trips	88%	91%	-3.83%	90%	92%	-1.82%
Mobility Percent On-Time Trips	96%	95%	1.05%	96%	97%	-1.13%
FLEX Percent On-Time Trips	76%	94%	-19.15%	80%	86%	-7.06%
System Subsidy/Passenger	\$6.97	\$6.78	2.81%	\$7.54	\$6.79	10.94%
Fixed Subsidy/Passenger	\$4.57	\$5.31	-13.92%	\$5.22	\$5.51	-5.19%
Mobility Subsidy/Passenger	\$49.77	\$34.25	45.31%	\$44.61	\$28.49	56.57%
FLEX Subsidy/Passenger	\$20.91	\$14.73	41.96%	\$20.86	\$14.17	47.24%
Operator Pay Hours/Service Hour	1.30	1.34	-3.22%	1.32	1.29	2.07%
Vehicle Maintenance Expense/Mile	\$1.28	\$1.33	-4.16%	\$1.28	\$1.09	17.75%



Federal Update for Connect Transit
Prepared May 21st, 2025

Reconciliation Update

House Republicans have unveiled their reconciliation bill and the offsets that will be used to fund their tax cuts. Several IRA credits were cut to offset the costs of extending the 2017 tax cuts, including the 45V hydrogen production tax credit, 45W commercial clean vehicle credit, and the 30C alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credit. If the bill passes, the 30C and 45W credits will end on December 31st of this year. The 45V credit will terminate January 1st, 2026, but eligible facilities must begin construction by December 31st, 2025.

The bill failed to pass the House Budget Committee on May 16th due to opposition from conservative hardliners seeking more cuts in the bill, then passed in a late-night vote on the 18th. House Republicans have a difficult needle to thread with their budget; conservative Republicans want to slash spending and decrease the deficit while blue-state Republicans are pushing for an increase in the State and Local Tax Deduction (SALT) cap, which would decrease federal revenues and worsen the deficit. The Republican House majority is small, so Speaker Johnson cannot afford to lose more than a handful of votes.

President's Budget Released

President Trump has released his FY26 budget proposal. It includes a proposed \$770 million boost to the INFRA Grant Program and a \$400 million boost to FRA's CRISI Grant program. The President's budget proposal does not outline proposed funding levels for FTA programs; however, there is around \$1.2 billion in DOT discretionary spending cuts that is not accounted for within the listed cuts.

FTA Releases FY25 LowNo and Bus and Bus Facilities NOFO

FTA has released its FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the LowNo and Bus and Bus Facilities grant programs. A summary from Cardinal staff is attached. Please note the new Administration criteria - applications to this round of LowNo/BBF will need to be substantially different to reflect the changes in how FTA will weigh applications. Notably, FTA will be awarding LowNo grants to low-emission projects to the greatest extent possible. Emphasis will also be placed on how these projects impact families through access to jobs, recreational and healthcare facilities, and commercial activity

House and Senate Budget Hearings for DOT

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees' Subcommittees on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development each held hearings on the President's FY26 Budget Proposal and DOT with Secretary Duffy this month. Members of the Senate Subcommittee pressed Duffy on cuts to the Essential Air Service program, efforts to improve the air traffic control system, and the impacts of DOT's personnel cuts and grant reviews. Republicans on the House Subcommittee emphasized the importance of investment in rural areas and criticized proposed cuts to the Essential Air Service program. Democrats questioned Duffy on the impacts of workforce cuts and grant reviews at DOT. Members of both parties



also discussed the unspecified cuts to IIA programs in the President's skinny budget; Secretary Duffy stated that this money will come from cuts to the NEVI program.

Highway Trust Fund Hearing

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on finding a long-term solution for the Highway Trust Fund. Members discussed solutions to include EVs in the HTF as well as potential routes for a new user pay tax, including a road access fee and a VMT tax. Several Democrats also advocated for increasing the share of the HTF that flows to the mass transit account.

Tariq Bokhari Sworn in as FTA Deputy Administrator

Bokhari is a former Charlotte City Councilman who advocated for the installation of bulletproof enclosures on CATS buses after an operator was shot in 2022. He also advocated against the Silver Line, a proposed 15-mile light rail project. Bokhari spoke positively about DOT and FRA in his remarks at APTA's Legislative Conference, noting that he was impressed by the pace at which staff worked and by how responsible they were. He appreciated staff's careful caretaking of taxpayer dollars and the Department's emphasis on efficiency.

DOT Approves \$3.2 Billion in Previously Announced Grants

USDOT [has approved](#) awards for \$3.2 billion in previously announced grants, including six CRISI awards (\$221 million), two Corridor ID awards (\$4 million), an FSP award (\$30 million), an CRE award (\$25 million), and 30 LowNo awards (\$494 million).

Duffy Memo to Federal Transportation Funding Recipients

Secretary Duffy issued a [memo](#) on compliance with federal law for federal transportation funding recipients. The memo specifically lists immigration and DEI provisions. On immigration, Duffy notes that funding recipients must cooperate with federal immigration authorities. On DEI, the memo notes that "any policy, program, or activity that is premised on a prohibited classification" such as DEI programs is in violation of federal law. It also states that federal funding recipients are barred from allocating grant awards based on "suspect classifications."

DOT Deferred Resignation Sees Thousands Leave the Agency

About 9% of DOT workers have accepted deferred resignation offers in the agency's second round, the bulk of which came from the Federal Aviation Administration. FTA Executive Director Matt Welbes has said that mass layoffs later this year are now unlikely due to the high number of employees who accepted the offer.

Duffy Threatens NY FHWA Funds After Hochul Maintains Congestion Pricing

Secretary Duffy is threatening to cut off FHWA funds to New York over the congestion pricing program. Earlier this year, Duffy had revoked FHWA's approval for the tolling program. MTA has filed a lawsuit



600 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20001

to keep the program in place, and Governor Hochul has previously stated that she will not kill the program until the courts have ruled on the issue.

Updated FTA Master Agreement

FTA has updated its [Master Agreement](#) for grant recipients. Recipients must certify that they do not engage in DEI activities and will cooperate with federal immigration enforcement efforts. It is unclear how these requirements may flow down to contractors.

New CEQ Permitting Technology Plan

President Trump has issued a [memo](#) directing the Council on Environmental Quality to release a new Permitting Technology Action Plan. The Plan is intended to help agencies utilize technology solutions for permit applications, reviews, and interagency coordination.

NHTSA Recalls Gillig and Nova Bus Vehicles

NHTSA has issued a recall of certain Gillig and Nova Bus Low Floor Buses due to battery issues that create a risk of electrical fires. The [affected Gillig buses](#) were produced in 2023 and 2024, while the [affected Nova Bus vehicles](#) are 2022-2023 model years. Gillig and Nova Bus will both replace the batteries free of charge.

Brown Removed as NTSB Vice Chair

The White House has removed Alvin Brown from his position as Vice Chair of the NTSB. Brown is the former mayor of Jacksonville, FL and has served on the NTSB since March of 2024. His term was set to expire in 2026.

Dick Durbin Announces Retirement

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) has announced he will not run for reelection next year. His retirement will set off a chain of succession, both in Illinois politics and in Democratic leadership, as Durbin is the second-in-command for the Senate Democrats. Durbin leaves behind an impressive legacy as Illinois's longest-serving popularly elected senator, longtime advocate for anti-smoking legislation, and the longest serving Senate Whip from either party.

Jimmy Patronis Joins House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-FL-1) has joined the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Patronis was elected to Congress this April to fill the seat vacated by Matt Gaetz.



CORNERSTONE

— AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED COMPANY —

TO: Connect Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Cornerstone Government Affairs – Illinois Team
SUBJECT: Legislative Update
DATE: May 27, 2025

Summary

This month, our team had multiple conversations with House and Senate members, as well as a number of stakeholders, to add our language to allow for eMirrors to be used by public transit vehicles to a separate bill, as the initial bill we added this language is no longer moving. At this time, we have introduced two versions of the amendment in the House as two options for passage, depending on action that is taken by the Senate. We will continue to advocate for this language and keep Connect updated on its movement during these final days of session.

Additionally, our team continued discussions with the House Speaker’s new Deputy Chief of Staff to pursue the release of our grant funding and to allow for use for prior incurred costs. We have also continued to share public transit reform updates with Connect as discussions have continued during these final days of session, including on the inclusion of downstate transit reform in a larger package. If language does move this spring, it is expected to be reform supported by Labor. However, it is unclear at this time on if language will move to allow for governance reforms and budgetary support, or just governance reforms.

Finally, our team also reached out to IDOT for further information on their Special Program Assistance Conference (SPAC) series and public transit’s eligibility for funding and shared information with Connect. Moving forward, we are continuing to monitor public transit reform discussions and other legislative actions which may impact your work.

Bill Tracking

Below are bills of interest currently in your bill file that are still active now that we are past the third reading deadline in both chambers:

SB 849

Short Description: TRANSPORTATION-TECH

Senate Sponsors

Sen. Patrick J. Joyce and Neil Anderson-Doris Turner

House Sponsors

(Rep. Amy Briel, La Shawn K. Ford, Diane Blair-Sherlock, Debbie Meyers-Martin, Michael J. Kelly, Joyce Mason, Mary Gill, Sharon Chung, Jason R. Bunting, Brandun Schweizer, Michael Crawford, Kimberly Du Buclet, Suzanne M. Ness, Martha Deuter, Gregg Johnson and Lisa Davis)

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Public-Private Partnerships for Transportation Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 1

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that a restricted commercial driver's license for farm-related service industries shall be available for a seasonal period or periods not to exceed a total of 210 (rather than 180) days in any 12-month period.

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
5/13/2025	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate

HB 2952

Short Description: PUBLIC BUILDINGS-BABY STATIONS

House Sponsors

Rep. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, Katie Stuart, Barbara Hernandez and Camille Y. Lilly

Senate Sponsors

(Sen. Javier L. Cervantes-Mike Porfirio)

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Equitable Restrooms Act. In provisions concerning baby changing stations, provides that hotels and lodging facilities; public and private schools and educational institutions; small entertainment venues including, movie theaters and bowling alleys; healthcare facilities with public restrooms; transit public parks with restroom facilities; and standalone public parks with restroom facilities are subject to the provisions. Provides that a retail store of more than 3,000 square feet (rather than 5,000 square feet) that contain a restroom open to the public are subject to the provisions. Provides that a restaurant that has an occupancy of at least 40 persons (rather than 60 persons), among other criteria, are subject to the provisions of the Act.

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
5/21/2025	Senate	Postponed - Executive

SB 1791

Short Description: TRANSIT-TO-TRAILS PROGRAM

Senate Sponsors

Sen. Laura Ellman-Ram Villivalam and Robert Peters

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Department of Transportation Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program through which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for projects that facilitate travel by public transportation to public outdoor recreation sites for outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, boating, picnicking, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or other nature-based activities. Provides that the Secretary shall offer grants through the Transit-to-Trails program on an annual basis. Requires the Department of Transportation to adopt rules necessary to implement and administer the program. Provides that, in considering grant applications, the Department shall prioritize projects with demonstrated intent to enhance access to outdoor recreation opportunities for populations in greatest need of improved access to outdoor nature-based recreation. Requires the Department to provide technical assistance in preparing grant applications to applicants upon request. Provides that implementation of the grant program is subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
3/12/2025	Senate	Assigned to Appropriations- Public Safety and Infrastructure

SB 1938

Short Description: METRO & REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTH

Senate Sponsors

Sen. Ram Villivalam

Synopsis As Introduced

Creates the Road Usage Charge Act. Establishes the Road Usage Charge Advisory Committee to guide the development and evaluation of the road usage charge pilot program and to assess the potential for mileage-based revenue as an alternative to the current system of taxing highway use through motor fuel taxes. Sets forth the membership and duties of the committee. Requires the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of State and based on the recommendations of the Committee, to implement a statewide pilot program by January 1, 2026 to assess a user fee on owners of motor vehicles that is based on the number of miles traveled on public roadways in this State by those vehicles. Amends the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act. Provides that, on and after February 1, 2026, the Chicago Transit Board shall have 8 members (currently 7 members). Makes changes to the number of affirmative votes by Directors required to issue bonds. Amends the Regional Transportation

Authority Act. Provides that the Annual Budget and 2-Year Financial Plan must show that the aggregate of all projected fare revenues from fares and charges for mass transportation provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts of, the Service Boards received in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 shall equal at least 25%, and in fiscal years 2028 and 2029 and every year thereafter at least 15%, of the aggregate cost of providing such public transportation in those fiscal years. Provides that, beginning July 1, 2026, the Regional Transportation Authority shall be the sole agency responsible for the management and oversight of the fare collection systems used on all public transportation provided by the Service Boards. Makes changes to the membership of the Suburban Bus Board and the Commuter Rail Board. Makes changes to the number of affirmative votes required by the Directors of the Authority to approve decisions regarding the strategic plan, coordination of fares and service, appointment of officers and employees, paratransit services, powers of the Commuter Rail Board, labor, budget, taxes, distribution of revenues, issuing and pledging bonds and notes, budget review powers, the annual capital improvement plan, and rate protection contracts. Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2026.

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
3/19/2025	Senate	Postponed - Transportation

General Legislative Updates

104th ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Illinois General Assembly stands adjourned for the week, with both chambers set to reconvene Tuesday, May 20, through Friday, May 23. A week from today – Friday, May 23 – is the Third Reading Deadline for legislation in the opposite chamber. Just two weeks remain in the Spring Legislative Session.

Representative Fred Crespo was abruptly removed as Chair of the House Appropriations General Services Committee, banned from the House Democratic Caucus, and removed from the bicameral bipartisan Legislative Audit Commission. The Speaker took action because Representative Crespo was not following caucus communication protocols and was preparing to introduce his own alternative budget proposal without the backing of the leadership or the House Democratic caucus. Speaker Welch appointed Deputy Majority Leader Bob Rita as the new chair of the House Appropriations General Services Committee.

Budget Update: With the adjournment deadline closing in, legislators are grappling with finalizing the FY 2026 budget. The fiscal challenges are particularly evident this year due to a projected \$1 billion budget deficit, which is exacerbated by economic uncertainties stemming from on-again off-again tariffs and unknown reductions in federal funding. Another complication: the looming \$750 million transit “fiscal cliff,” although a resolution may not be found by the end of the Spring session.

On Monday, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget released its [revised revenue forecast](#), adjusting figures for both the current and upcoming fiscal years. For Fiscal Year 2025, GOMB increased

its projection by \$19 million, while simultaneously reducing its FY 2026 forecast by \$536 million (or 1%) below the General Funds revenue forecast originally presented in the Governor's introduced budget. This updated FY 26 estimate assumes the General Assembly will approve all revenue proposals introduced in the FY 26 budget. These adjustments mean that GOMB now projects \$54.9 billion in revenue for the fiscal year starting July 1, down from its previous estimate of \$55.5 billion.

Looking at specific revenue streams, GOMB now predicts \$351 million less in corporate income taxes due to a lower forecast for corporate profits, along with \$289 million less in individual income taxes resulting from recently reduced forecasts of employment, diminished wages and salary growth, and lower estimated stock market performance. Additionally, the new budget forecast anticipates \$150 million less in sales taxes and a mere \$70 million less from the federal government. These reductions are partially offset by higher interest income, as the Federal Reserve has been slower to reduce interest rates than initially expected.

Despite GOMB's modest projection in loss of federal funding, the potential decrease in this area is perhaps the most unpredictable aspect of all considerations in this budget cycle. The potential loss of federal Medicaid funding – coupled with the loss of health care coverage for hundreds of thousands – is just one example of the impact that ever-changing federal policy is having on the Illinois budget. The recent budget reconciliation recommendations from the US House Energy and Commerce Committee suggest that approximately 300,000 Illinois residents could lose health coverage over the next decade. Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office forecasts that another 190,000 individuals in Illinois may lose Medicaid coverage because of new tax credit rules and eligibility restrictions under the ACA. The country's 23 Democratic Governors have expressed concerns about these potential cuts, calling them "disastrous" and highlighting the difficulties the states would face in absorbing or replacing these funds.

The Governor and legislative leaders acknowledge the complexities in this budget cycle and indicate the real likelihood that lawmakers may need to reconvene during the summer to make necessary adjustments after the budget's implementation on July 1. Despite these challenging circumstances, the Governor and legislative leaders remain committed to achieving a "balanced budget." Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

2025 Spring Session Key Dates and Deadlines:

May 23: Deadline – Third Reading Deadline Bills in Opposite Chamber

May 31: Adjournment

GOVERNOR'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Governor Pritzker, Australian Ambassador Rudd, and UK Ambassador Mandelson convened with industry leaders to strengthen quantum technology collaboration. Key aspects of the roundtable with international quantum companies include: joint research, partnerships, and workforce development. Illinois secured an agreement with Australian firm Diraq to expand to the Illinois Quantum and

Microelectronics Park. Discussions emphasized accelerating quantum innovation for technological advancement and security while strengthening cross-sector collaboration. Australia continues advancing its National Quantum Strategy with significant investments, including supporting PsiQuantum's quantum computer development in Brisbane and accelerating commercialization through the Critical Technologies Challenge Program.

Electric Bus Company to Open First U.S. Assembly Plant in Illinois: Damera Corporation is establishing its first U.S. assembly plant in greater Peoria, with a \$31.5 million investment supported by the REV Illinois program. About 90 new jobs will be created at the facility by the Canadian transit company, which distributes zero-emission Karsan eJEST minibuses. The plant will be multi-faceted, including assembly lines, testing zones, battery assembly areas, and administrative offices to support the company's expansion into the U.S. electric transit bus market. Read more [here](#).

Local Transportation Grants Available: The Illinois Department of Transportation has announced that \$400 million is available for local transportation projects aimed at improving mobility and quality of life across communities statewide. With applications due June 1, project selection will key in on cost-effectiveness, feasibility, and safety. Eligible projects span multiple categories – highways, bike and pedestrian facilities, transit, passenger rail, freight, safety improvements, federal grant matches, and other relevant initiatives. Any project phase qualifies for funding, including preliminary engineering work that prepares for future funding opportunities.

Local governments that manage transportation infrastructure are invited to apply, with priority consideration given to proposals benefiting disadvantaged or economically distressed communities. And while Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goals must be met, local matching funds are not required for participation. Read more [here](#).

West Nile Virus: The Winnebago County Health Department collected this year's first mosquito pool to test positive for West Nile virus on May 9 in Rockford, says the Illinois Department of Public Health. More [here](#).

OTHER NEWS:

2026 Election Update: Republican Congressman Mike Bost announced he will seek reelection to the 12th District.

Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison announced his candidacy for Congress in Illinois' 8th Congressional District. That district is currently represented by US Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, who is running for the U.S. Senate.

Also running for the Democratic nomination for the 8th Congressional District is Sanjyot Dunung, who grew up in Des Plaines, the daughter of Indian immigrants. She holds board positions with several organizations, including the National Small Business Association, and has worked with President Biden's Foreign Policy Working Group and UNICEF USA.

This week also saw a third candidate announcing a run for the Democratic nomination for the 8th Congressional District – Yasmeen Bankole, a Hanover Park Trustee. She has most recently worked as regional director for Senator Dick Durbin and earlier worked in Krishnamoorthi’s office.

State Senator Robert Peters announced he will seek the Democratic nomination to replace Congresswoman Robin Kelly in the 2nd Congressional District; she is seeking to replace retiring US Senator Dick Durbin. Peters serves as a Majority Whip in the Illinois Senate and chairs the Senate Labor Committee. Adal Regis, who works in the nonprofit sector, will also seek the Democratic nomination in the 2nd Congressional District.

Evanston Mayor and former State Senator Daniel Biss announced he will seek the Democratic nomination to replace retiring Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky in the 9th Congressional District.

Democrat Paul Nolley will challenge Republican Congressman Darin LaHood in the 16th Congressional District.

Raoul Files Lawsuit Over Federal Immigration Enforcement: A coalition of 20 attorneys general led by officials from Illinois, California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island announced plans to file two lawsuits against the Trump administration. FEMA, DHS, DOT, and their respective leaders are being targeted by the legal actions for allegedly illegal attempts to force states into immigration enforcement by threatening to withhold billions in federal funding. The lawsuits challenge new conditions requiring that states cooperate with federal immigration enforcement in order to receive critical public safety and infrastructure funds. Read more [here](#).

Illinois Recovers \$45 Million Settlement From CVS: Illinois' Attorney General secured a \$45 million settlement from CVS Caremark for failing to properly disclose and remit pharmacy benefit rebates owed to the State. The Governor's Office and CMS attorneys negotiated the settlement, covering rebates collected between April 2020 and June 2024 under CVS Caremark's contract for pharmacy benefits for state employees, retirees, and their dependents. These recovered funds will reduce the financial burden on Illinois taxpayers. Read more [here](#).



MEMO

Date: May 27, 2025
To: Board of Trustees
From: Ashley Strupek, Procurement Manager
CC: David Braun, Managing Director
Subject: Recommendation for Service Vehicles

Recommendation:

Authorize the Managing Director to execute a contract with Sutton Ford, Inc. for the purchase of five 2025 Ford Explorer Active vehicles utilizing a State of Illinois contract. This contract award is contingent upon IDOT approval.

Background:

Service vehicles are used in a variety of ways to support our services. The majority of the usage is to provide driver relief for lunch breaks and at the end of shifts. Using service vehicles in these situations drastically reduces costly deadhead time for buses. These vehicles are also used by Operations Supervisors to provide on-road support to drivers, and other staff for various other administrative functions.

Two vehicles in our fleet are currently past their useful life and will be replaced by the new vehicles. Often there are not enough vehicles to support the services we provide so the fleet of services vehicles is being increased by three additional vehicles. This will ensure a sufficient number of vehicles are available to avoid scheduling constraints.

Discussion:

As with previous maintenance service truck purchases, we are utilizing a State of Illinois contract to help expedite the procurement process and benefit from reduced pricing. Orders on these state contracts are managed through the specific dealership that was awarded the contract. In this case, Sutton Ford, located in Matteson, Illinois, was awarded the contract for these vehicles. Sutton Ford has been in business for over 30 years.



Financial Impact:

Connect Transit will utilize FTA Section 5307 and IDOT Debt Service funds for the purchase of these vehicles. The total cost per vehicle will be \$42,121.



MEMO

Date: May 27, 2025
To: Board of Trustees
From: Ashley Strupek, Procurement Manager
CC: David Braun, Managing Director
Subject: Recommendation for Purchase of Ram ProMaster Microtransit Vans

Recommendation:

Authorize the Managing Director to execute a contract with ABC Companies for the purchase of up to ten Ram ProMaster Sunset Minibus Low Floor Battery Electric or Gasoline Powered ADA vans.

Background:

Since Connect Transit launched the Connect FLEX service in July of 2023, we have served over 97,342 passengers and have received many requests for expansion of the service to different areas of the community. To continue to meet the needs of our community, staff has determined additional vehicles are needed to support the expansion of Connect FLEX services to future zones. We have received state and federal grant funding to support the purchase of these vehicles for microtransit use.

Discussion:

The APTA EXPO in fall of 2023 presented an opportunity to see the latest innovations in vehicles that fit our microtransit service needs. Our ideal vehicle for this service is a low floor, ramp equipped ADA accessible vehicle that is smaller than the typical cutaway type vehicle for paratransit services. The Ram ProMaster vehicles that we currently use to provide Connect FLEX service meet our definition of an ideal vehicle for this service. While looking at vehicles at the EXPO we discovered a fully electric Sunset Minibus Ram ProMaster being sold by ABC Companies that fits our needs and is also available as a gasoline powered model.

Further consideration of these vehicles revealed a contract that was competitively bid by the State of Georgia and awarded to ABC Companies. The contract is available for any transit agency to purchase vehicles and meets all FTA requirements. By using this contract, we were able to move through the procurement process more efficiently. Vehicle delivery is expected

to take place four to six months after the execution of a contract, which further supports an expedited procurement schedule to meet the need of additional microtransit zones. Connect Transit staff determined it appropriate to seek IDOT approval for use of this contract. IDOT provided pre-award concurrence to purchase the vans utilizing the State of Georgia contract.

These vehicles feature eight passenger seats and two wheelchair locations. As a low floor vehicle, they are equipped with a fold-away wheelchair ramp for easy boarding of passengers requiring a mobility device. The vehicles include the original equipment manufacturer warranty of five-year / 60,000-mile.

The battery-electric power vehicles feature batteries that are appropriately sized at 75 kWh and will provide approximately 130 - 150 miles of range on an average day. Current industry studies suggest that cold weather days result in a loss of approximately 20% of the expected range, which still provides a range sufficient for our current needs. The propulsion systems and the battery include a standard three-year / 60,000-mile warranty.

Vehicles will be purchased throughout the next five years, dependent upon needs and service expansion. Staff will make decisions regarding fuel choice based upon the requirements of our funding sources and size of the areas in which service will be proposed.



Based in Florida, ABC Companies has been a long-time supplier of heavy-duty bus parts for Connect Transit. ABC Companies' total revenue per year is over \$500M from various business lines including parts sales, Van Hool Motorcoach, and specialty/cutaway vehicles sales. They have sold over 500 Ram Promaster vans with over 90 of those being fully electric vehicles. Importantly, there have been no major systemic problems with the electric vehicles causing

excessive vehicle downtime. ABC has a full staff of Field Service Technicians to support these vehicles if issues arise.

Financial Impact:

Connect Transit will utilize FTA Section 5339 and IDOT Rebuild Illinois Grant funds awarded specifically for the purchase of these vehicles. The total cost per vehicle will be a maximum of \$309,626.11 depending on options chosen.





MEMO

Date: May 27, 2025
To: Board of Trustees
From: Stephanie Butler, HR Manager
CC: David Braun, Managing Director
Subject: Recommendation for FY26 Health Insurance Renewal

Recommendation:

Authorize the Managing Director to approve a contract with Connect Transit's current healthcare insurance provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBS), for a term of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

Background:

The current health insurance policy with BCBS is set to be renewed July 1, 2025. Employees will have the choice of two (2) plans:

1. MICO3013: This plan offers a \$7500 individual deductible and a \$15,000 family deductible that is covered by the NonStop Visa Card that is used to pay for medical/Rx expenses.
 - a. **CHANGES:** This plan is entirely new. It includes a higher deductible insurance package from BCBS to help manage increases in costs but also includes NonStop Health that provides first dollar coverage so employees will have virtually no out-of-pocket expenses for covered in-network care.

2. MPEQ1Z0725: This plan is a high-deductible HSA. This plan offers a \$3,300 individual deductible and a \$6,600 family deductible.
 - a. **CHANGES:** The individual deductible under this plan will increase from \$3,200 to \$3,300 at renewal. Similarly, the family deductible under this plan will increase from \$6,400 to \$6,600 at renewal.

The entire ancillary insurance package, including Short-Term and Long-Term Disability, Life/AD&D, Dental and Vision coverage will be provided by Mutual of Omaha for our FY26 renewal.

Financial Impact:

The total increase for health insurance is 22.09% for the FY26 renewal. This increase was anticipated in our approved FY26 Budget.





MEMO

Date: May 27, 2025
To: Board of Trustees
From: Patrick Kuebrich, Finance Director
CC: David Braun, Managing Director
Subject: Recommendation for FY26 Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal

Recommendation:

Authorize the Managing Director to renew property and casualty insurance effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Background:

Connect Transit is renewing the property and casualty insurance for the term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This renewal covers the following insurance coverage: workers' compensation, property and equipment, general liability and employee benefits, automobile, umbrella, directors' and officers' liability and employment practices, fiduciary liability, crime, cyber liability, and business travel accident.

Discussion:

The premium for the workers' compensation insurance renewal will decrease \$7,007 (from \$343,979 FY25 to \$336,972 FY26). The decrease is due to moving to Encova for insurance coverage for FY26.

The premium for the property and casualty insurance renewal will increase. The total increase is \$68,918 (from \$612,161 FY25 to \$681,079 FY26). The majority of this premium increase (\$65,598) is from the automotive liability and comprehensive coverage. This increase is due to a change in market conditions and the resulting risk exposure.

Even though this is a significant increase, we feel this is a reasonable renewal. We will be working with Marsh MMA, our insurance broker, to receive assistance and service that will help mitigate our claims in the future.

Financial Impact:

The total cost for this renewal of all policies shown in the table below is \$1,018,051, a \$61,911 (6.5%) increase over FY25. The increase was anticipated and included in the FY26 Operating Budget.



Premium Summary

Coverage Carrier/AM Best Rating	2024-2025 Expiring Premium	2025-2026 Renewal Premium
Encova – A++ XV Workers' Compensation*	\$343,979	\$ 336,972
Travelers – A++ XV Property, Equipment Breakdown, Inland Marine	\$ 38,211	\$ 34,074
Travelers – A++ XV General Liability and Employee Benefits	\$ 7,873	\$ 8,276
Travelers – A++ XV Automobile Liability and Comprehensive	\$442,403	\$ 508,001
Travelers – A++ XV Umbrella Liability	\$ 82,070	\$ 86,010
Travelers – A++ XV Directors & Officers Liability and Employment Practices	\$ 32,410	\$ 36,507
Travelers Renewal – A++ XV Fiduciary	\$ 2,859	\$ 2,859
Hanover Insurance Company – A XV Crime	\$ 876	\$ 876
Cowbell – A XV Cyber Liability	\$ 4,074	\$ 3,091
Chubb Insurance – A++ XV Business Travel Accident	\$ 1,385	\$ 1,385
Total Carrier Premium	\$956,140	\$1,018,051

* Subject to annual audit



MEMO

Date: May 27, 2025
To: Board of Trustees
From: David Braun, Managing Director
Mark Huffman, Marketing Manager
Subject: FY26 Marketing Plan

Under Goal 1 of our Strategic Plan, Objective 1 is to Create and Define a Community Wide Communications Plan. Developing and implementing a Marketing Plan with campaign target, campaign purpose, communications strategies (media, events, etc.) to be used, and campaign timeline are activities under Objective 1.

Due to staff turnover, and the learning curve for our new Marketing Manager, this plan took some additional time to develop. Although we did not have a specific plan, public outreach continued throughout the transition of managers.

The Marketing Plan that will be presented to you carries forward elements and themes from the Brand Positioning and Concepts study prepared by Dovetail and presented to the Board last year. Specifically, you will see the following themes and concepts presented in the plan:

- "Proud to partner with Connect Transit" in the Nostalgia and Hero campaigns in the plan.
- "Always Puts our Community First" in the Transit Center and Nostalgia campaigns.
- "Trusted Community Advocate" and "Enriches the Community" in the Awareness and Employer Campaigns.

Dovetail provided concepts were also considered in developing this plan. As you might recall, Concept 1 was about celebrating our community and bringing it together. The awareness efforts, employer campaign, and service/route specific campaigns carry this concept.

Concept 2 spoke to our caring about the future and commitment to make it better. Our Downtown Transit Center and service specific campaigns demonstrate this concept.

Concept 3 focuses on our role to fulfill the journeys are riders take, one stop at a time and beyond. This concept is reflected in the awareness campaign for the college and university students, as well as the employer campaign and the rural service expansion campaign.

The plan also reflects some of Dovetail's "Extra Mileage" Ideas, including "Bloomington-Normal Landmarks and Heros" with the Employer, Awareness and Heros campaigns. The idea of "Pop-up Partnerships" has already been leveraged with the Record Store Day promotion that promoted local businesses while promoting the Green Route as a way to get there.

Finally, we have initiated several projects that will benefit our passengers and the community. Rural service expansion, return to peak service on select routes, updated fare collection equipment and rider app, the Downtown Bloomington Transit Center and Connect FLEX expansion will leverage other campaign themes, and will require focused marketing for each initiative.

While the images and specific campaign materials that Dovetail provided might not be used in these campaigns, the concepts, themes and ideas that made up the recommendations will be.

Our Marketing Plan is targeted on educating the public on the basics of where we go, how to use the bus, and the benefits we provide to our community with very specific and intentional materials, images and messages the present Connect Transit in a friendly, accessible and approachable manner. As people become aware of Connect Transit's services and contributions, we will develop marketing that is more aspirational like some of the Dovetail concepts were.