

Board of Trustees

Regular Session

June 24, 2025



Agenda

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
 - A. Attendance by Other Means/Virtual – Roll Call Vote
- C. Pledge of Allegiance and Mission Statement
 - A. Connect Transit provides safe, reliable transportation and access to opportunity to strengthen and enrich individual lives, our community, the economy, and the environment.
- D. Public Comments

Consent Agenda

E. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Financial Information for *May 2025*
 - b. Monthly Statistical Reports for *May 2025*
 - c. Approval of Minutes for *April 22, 2025* – Regular and Executive Sessions
 - d. Approval of Minutes for *May 27, 2025* – Regular Session
 - e. Approval of Minutes for *June 13, 2025* – Strategic Plan Workshop and Special Meeting
 - f. Cardinal Infrastructure; Federal Report
 - g. Cornerstone; Illinois Weekly Update
- Roll Call Vote

New Business

a) FY 24 Audit Results - Informational

New Business

- b) Recommendation for State Lobbyist Contract Extension – Roll Call Vote
- c) Recommendation for Federal Lobbyist Contract Extension – Roll Call Vote
- d) Route Modification Discussion – Informational

Route Change Recommendations

- Yellow/Pink Alignment Change
- Red Express replacement With New Service
- Purple/Blue Peak Service Restoration

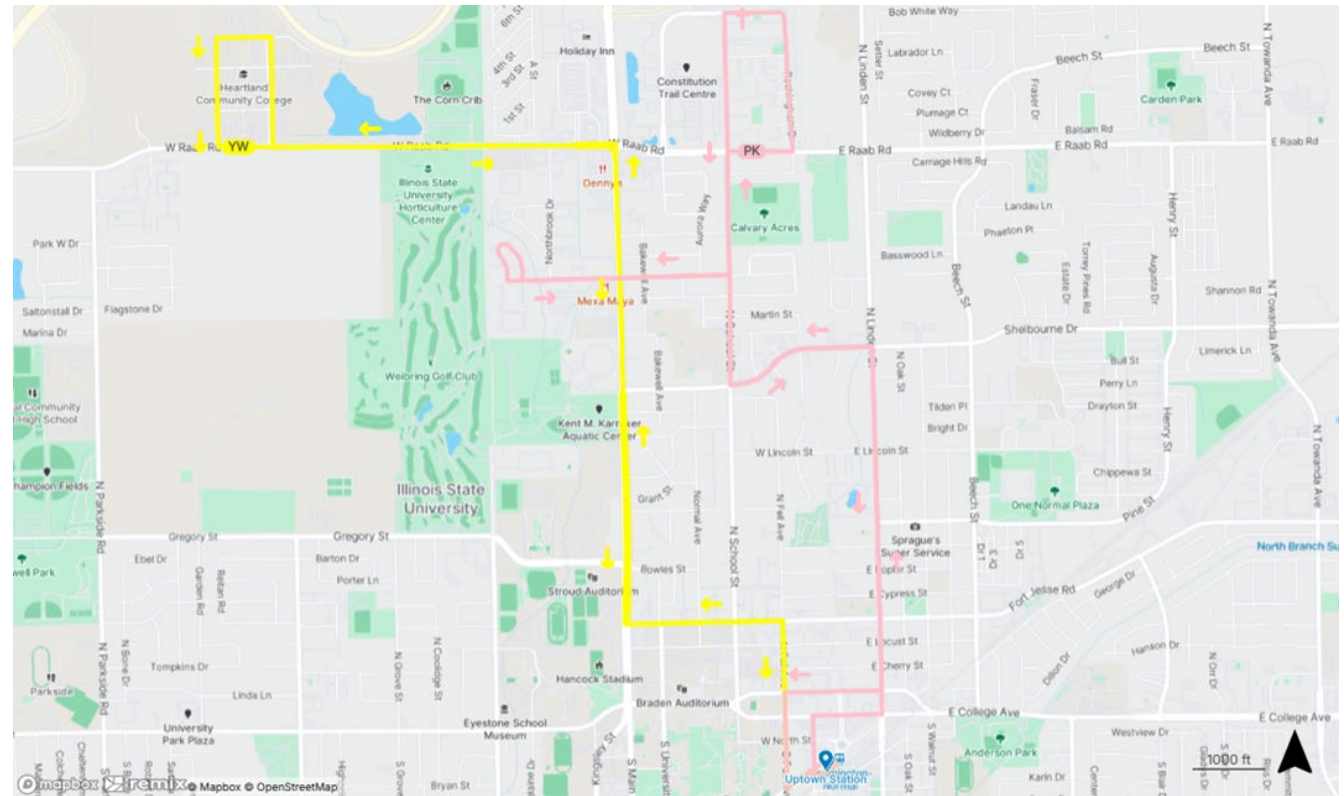
Yellow - Pink

Current Route

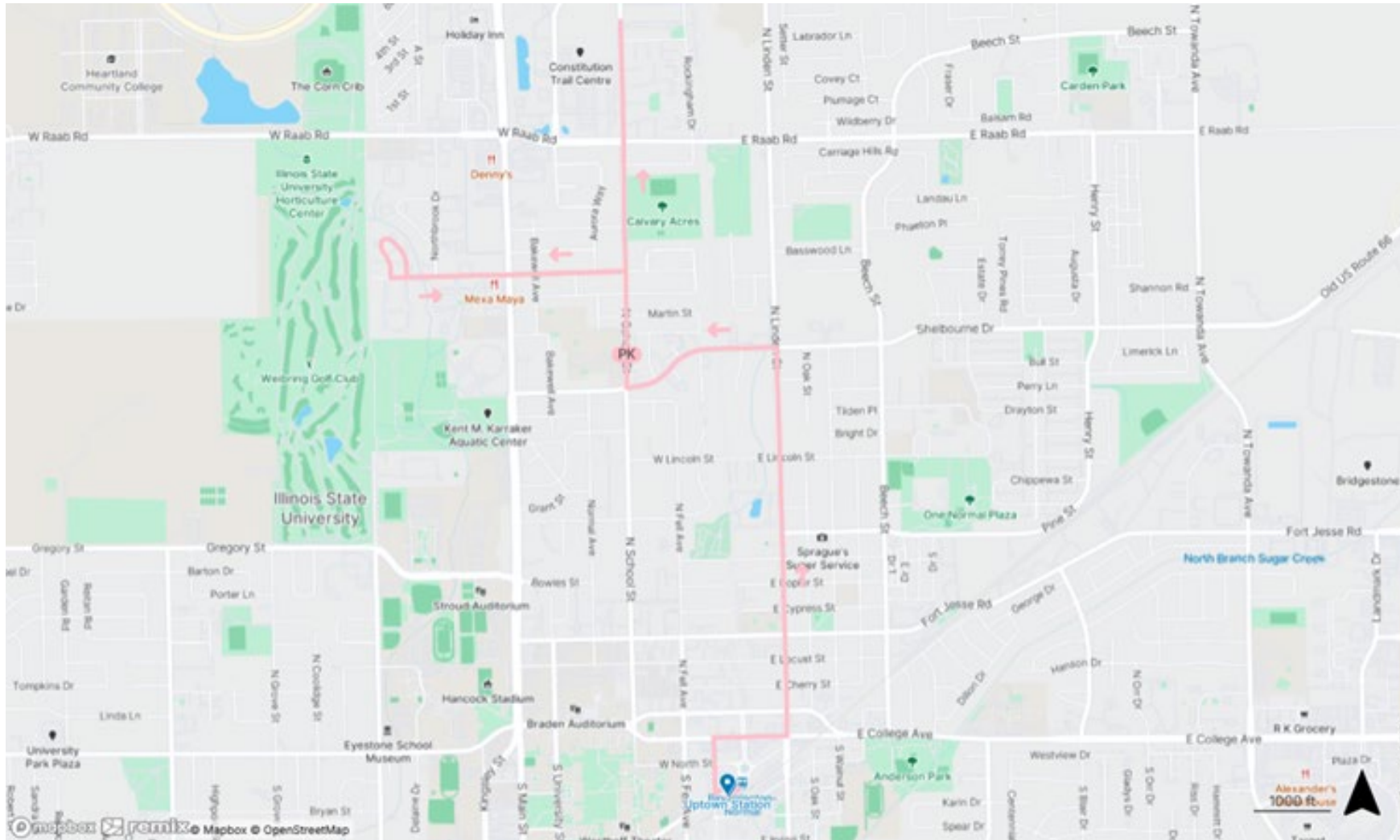
- Yellow and Pink are two interlined North-South routes.
- Both run on a 30-minute frequency (one bus every 30 minutes).
- **Yellow:** Uptown Station -> Heartland Community College
- **Pink:** Uptown Station -> Lincoln Square Apartments

Key Issues

- The two routes suffer from a tight schedule during peak traffic/ridership hours.
- Inefficient Pink deviation: To serve the Orlando Northbrook Estates, the Pink deviates *only* on its Northbound trip by turning left on Orlando Avenue from School Street.



Northbound Pink Deviation



Added Service on Northbrook Drive

- Northbrook Drive has numerous apartments, with no stops or bus service — residents must walk to Raab Road or Orlando Avenue.
- Two to three new stops would be added.
- Raab Road and Main Street bus stop would be moved to Northbrook Drive and Raab Road (~ 0.1 mile)



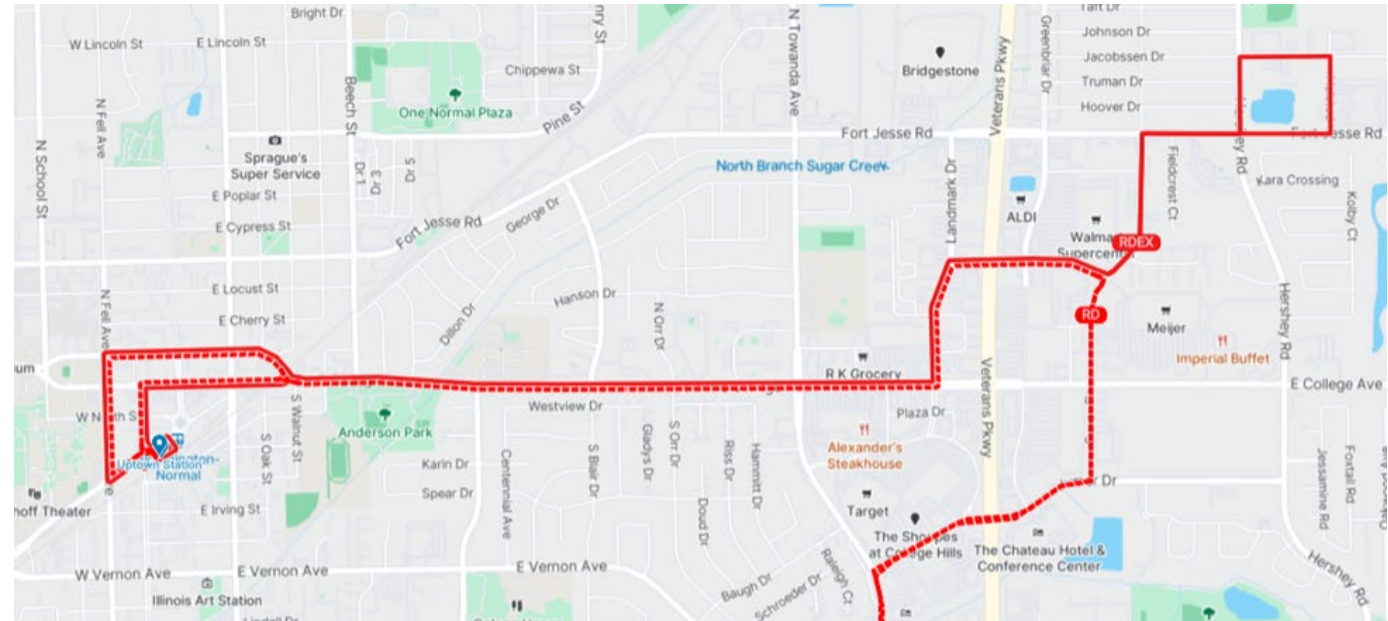
Red Express

Current Route

- The Red Express operates Monday – Friday only during peak hours: **7:00 – 11:00 a.m.** and **3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**
- Duplicates Red Route service until the Normal Walmart.
- Continues to OSF on Fort Jesse and Lifelong Access.

Key Issues

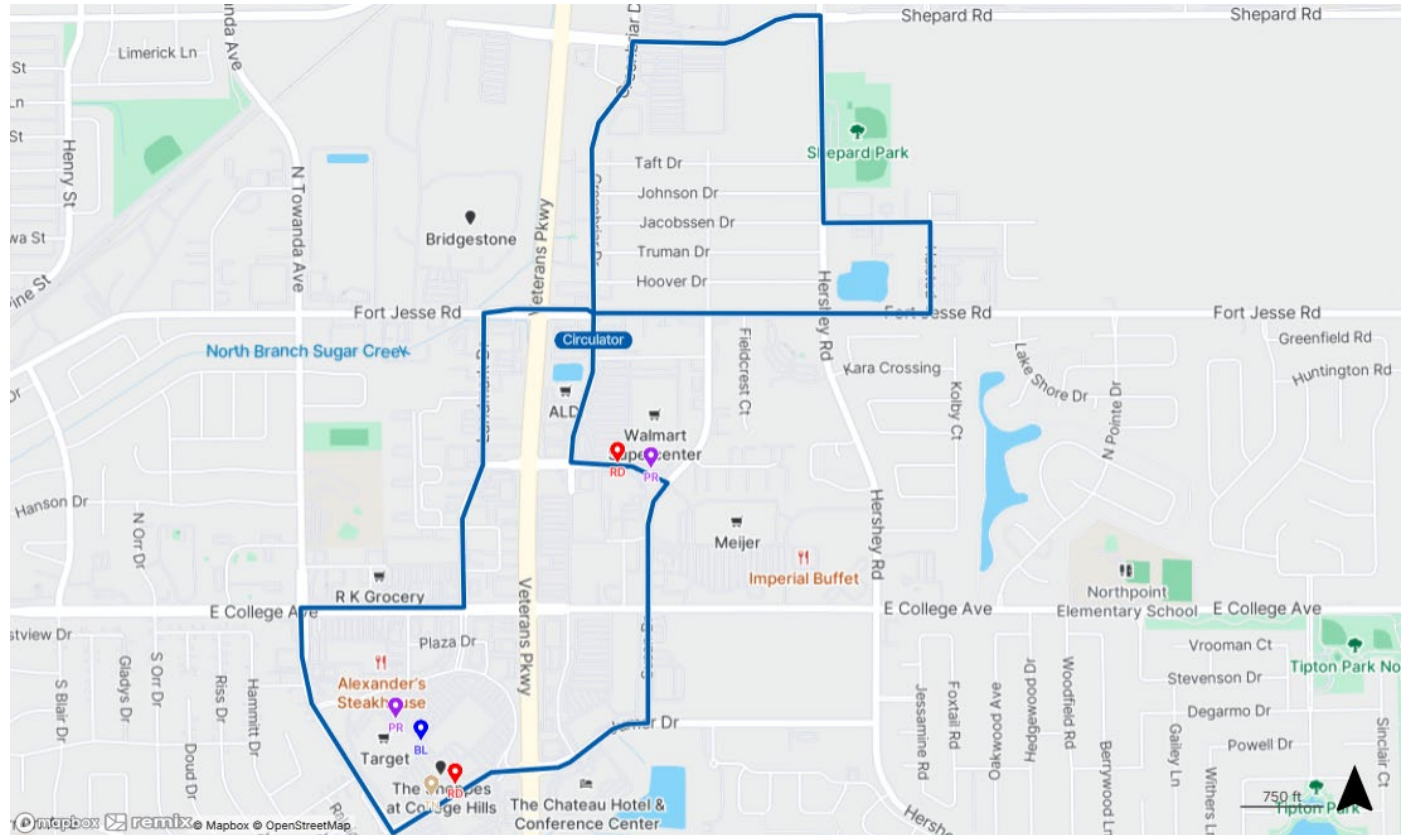
- No built-in recovery time – poor on-time performance results in unreliable service.
- Service duplication with the Red results in inefficient service.



Proposal

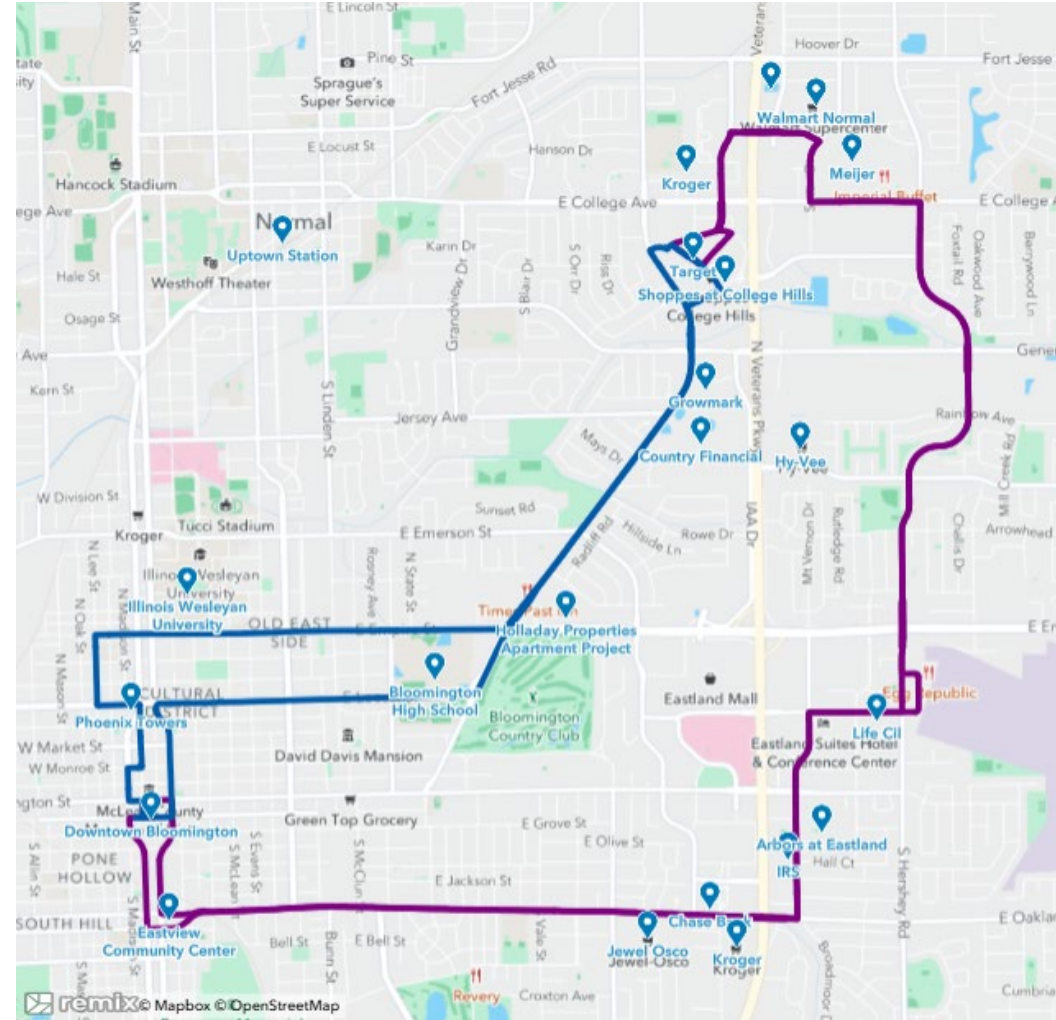
Replace the Red Express with a Circulator that would continue current service, while adding new service areas and expanding time of service.

- Circulator will connect Normal's shopping and medical centers.
- It will serve the Normal Walmart, one of our four transfer hubs connecting to Purple and Red.
- It will serve College Hills, a minor transfer hub connecting to Blue, Purple and Tan.
- Expands service to Menard's and Sam's Club area, which we do not serve now, with ~ 360+ employees.
- Improves system interconnectedness.
- **New route would run all day Sunday - Saturday, instead of weekday only peak hours**



Renewal of Blue-Purple Peak Service

- Blue-Purple are two interlined routes that provide service shown in the map.
- Currently both routes operate on a 60-minute frequency.
- We would like to restore peak service for the two routes, which would provide 30-minute frequency in the morning (6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.) and afternoon (2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.), Monday - Friday.
- Frequency increase will allow for more convenient service, as well as easier transfers.



Ridership Changes Since Removal of Peak

Routes	Riders change	
Blue	-19%	
Purple	-10%	
Silver	-20%	Served by FLEX Zone
Lime	-19%	Affected by road closures
Pink	-4%	
Orange	-1%	
Aqua	-1%	
Gold	0%	
Brown	6%	
Yellow	8%	

New Business

e) Route Naming Discussion - Informational

Route Renaming – Number Based System

- Each route keeps its associated color.
- The route name would include a three-digit number, based on its connection to our two major hubs (Uptown Station and Downtown Bloomington).
 - 000 Routes = No Connection to Uptown Station or Downtown Bloomington.
 - 100 Routes = Connection to Uptown Station only.
 - 200 Routes = Connection to Downtown Bloomington only.
 - 300 Routes = Connection to Uptown Station and Downtown Bloomington.

Examples

014

014 - Redbird.

As the Redbird connects to neither the Uptown Station hub nor the Downtown Transfer hub, the first digit is 0 (zero). In our internal tracking system, Redbird is #14, therefore, route 014.

107

107 - Yellow.

As the Yellow connects to only the Uptown Station hub, the first digit is 1 (one). In our internal tracking system, Yellow is #07, therefore, route 107.

211

211 - Aqua

As the Aqua connects to only the Downtown Transfer hub, the first digit is 2 (two). In our internal tracking system, Aqua is #11, therefore, route 211.

301

301 - Green

As the Green connects to both the Uptown Station hub and the Downtown Transfer hub, the first digit is 3 (three). In our internal tracking system, Redbird is #01, therefore, route 301.

List of New Route Numbers

No Link to Hub	Uptown Only	Downtown Only	Serves Uptown and Downtown
014 – Redbird 033 – Sapphire 030 – Circulator	104 – Pink 106 – Brown 107 – Yellow 115 – Tan	203 – Purple 205 – Blue 208 – Orange 211 – Aqua 212 – Gold 218 – Silver	301 – Green 302 – Red 309 – Lime

Next Steps

- Proposal to the Connect Transit Board of Trustees:
 - 6/24/2025
- Public Engagement Sessions:
 - Two in Normal – ISU Alumni Center; Time TBD
 - Two in Bloomington – Bloomington Public Library; Time TBD
- Document comments made in public engagement sessions
- Adjust recommendations as necessary
- Final proposal to the Board of Trustees
 - July 22, 2025
- Start Service:
 - August 11, 2025

Committee Reports

Operations & Planning Committee:

Trustee Foster
Trustee Rao

Finance Committee:

Vice Chair Hile

Marketing & Communications Committee:

Trustee Buchanan
Mark Huffman

Chairman's Report

Managing Director's Report

Strategic Plan Update Next Steps

- Continue to report progress in regular Highlights email.
- Develop GANTT style chart including current projects, and planned objectives
- Plan Additional Meetings
 - Purpose:
 - Align with existing projects and perceived service needs.
 - Continue to review goals and objectives for relevance to current operating and funding environment.
 - Meetings:
 - 2-3 months
- Report
 - Draft: 3-4 months
 - Final: 4-6 months

Community

• Outreach:

- Survey for Yellow-Pink route changes
- Milwaukee UMO visit
- Saturdays on the Square
- Connect Job Fair -two weekends
 - Social media posts, flyers and Pantagraph ads. Attracted good candidates.
- ISU Hewett & Manchester Residence Halls Incoming Freshman
 - Five banners
 - Handouts, posters, etc. & elevator wraps
- Airport disaster training
- Cooling bus downtown 6/21-6/22
- Pride Picnic cooling bus.



• Morale:

- May Employee Birthday and Work Anniversary Celebrations
- June Employee Birthday and Work Anniversary Celebrations
- Fun games in monthly newsletter
- Employee interview in monthly newsletter



Community

- Dave White, Safety & Training Director, and Norm Ellison, Training Coordinator participated in an emergency exercise at Heartland Community College on Friday, June 6, 2025. This exercise simulated a battery-electric vehicle fire in the Electric Vehicle Lab (EVL) at Heartland College and tested the response capabilities of the local agencies to a hazardous environment event on the campus.
- They also participated in a disaster drill at the Central Illinois Regional Airport on Saturday, June 21, 2025. This drill is conducted every three years and tests the airport's response plans to a critical event involving aircraft. Connect Transit provided two 40ft buses that will be used to simulate the fuselage of a passenger aircraft that has crashed. We will also provide two buses in our role as a transport provider for groups of passengers who have injuries that are not life threatening or severe ("walking wounded").



Professional Development

Transportation Safety Institute - Transit System Safety

- Norm Ellison, Safety & Training Coordinator
 - Kalamazoo, Michigan
 - The class provides students with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of occupational health and safety, to conduct an evaluation the safety measures at the host property and is a key step towards earning the Transportation Safety and Security Professional (TSSP) certification from the Transportation Safety Institute.

Recruiting

- Positions Open

- Bus Operator (6)
- Customer Service Representative (1)
- Mechanic (3)
- Rural Service Coordinator (1)
- Service Delivery Manager (1)

- Positions Filled

- Bus Operator (3)
- Microtransit Operator (1)
- Operations Intern (1)

The poster is for a 'BUS OPERATOR JOB FAIRS' event. It features the Connect Transit logo at the top. The main title is 'BUS OPERATOR JOB FAIRS'. Below this, it specifies the location as 'CONNECT TRANSIT 351 WYLIE DRIVE NORMAL, IL 61761'. The dates are 'JUNE 8 to JUNE 14' and the time is '9 AM to 3 PM'. The starting salary is '\$48,755' and the hourly rate is '\$23.44 per HOUR'. It also mentions '10%+ INCREASES per FIRST 3 YEARS' and 'PAID TRAINING for PERMIT & LICENSE'. The benefits section includes: Medical insurance, Dental, vision, life insurance, Paid time off & holidays, Retirement plan (Employer contribution of 5%), Tuition reimbursement available, Opportunities for advancement, and Free bus pass for immediate family members. Contact information is provided at the bottom: 'CONTACT US (309) 828-9833'.

connect TRANSIT

BUS OPERATOR JOB FAIRS

LOCATION

JUNE 8
to
JUNE 14

CONNECT TRANSIT
351 WYLIE DRIVE
NORMAL, IL 61761

9 AM
to
3 PM

STARTING AT

\$48,755 | **\$23.44** per HOUR | 10%+ INCREASES per FIRST 3 YEARS | PAID TRAINING for PERMIT & LICENSE

BENEFITS

- Medical insurance
- Dental, vision, life insurance
- Paid time off & holidays
- Retirement plan
Employer contribution of 5%
- Tuition reimbursement available
- Opportunities for advancement
- Free bus pass for immediate family members

CONTACT US
(309) 828-9833

Agenda

J. Trustee Comments

K. Executive Session - none

Agenda

L. Adjournment

- Roll Call Vote

- Next Meeting: July 22, 2025