

**Connect Transit Board of Trustees**  
**October 1, 2025, 5:30 p.m.**  
**351 Wylie Drive, Normal, IL 61761 – Board Room**  
**Special Meeting Minutes – Approved at 10/28/25 Meeting**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Interim Chair Julie Hile called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

David Braun, Managing Director, recorded attendance via roll call.

**Trustees Present:**

Trustee Gina Bianchi  
Trustee Judy Buchanan  
Secretary Linda Foster  
Interim Chair Julie Hile  
Trustee Mandava Rao

**Trustees Absent:**

Trustee Elicsha Sanders

**City Managers Present:**

City Manager Jeff Jurgens

**City Managers Absent:**

City Manager Pam Reece

**Staff Present:**

David Braun, Managing Director  
Brady Lange, Deputy Managing Director,  
Ashley Strupek, Procurement Manager  
Charlie Busse, Maintenance Manager  
Dave White, Safety and Training Director  
Jeff Mancil, Service Delivery Manager  
Mark Huffman, Marketing Manager  
Pat Kuebrich, Finance Director  
Stephanie Butler, HR Manager  
Steve Stockton, IT Manager

**Guest(s) Present:**

Ted Carlock, Connect Transit Employee  
Julie Holts, ATU 752  
Thalia Klunick, ATU 752  
Shannon Liska, COVE  
Elizabeth Monteros, COVE  
Michelle Brown, COVE

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MISSION STATEMENT:**

David Braun led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Interim Chair Hile read the Connect Transit Mission Statement.

#### **D. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Shannon Liska, Connect Transit rider, shared her recent experiences of being marked as a ‘no-show’ in the Mobility rider system due to inaccurate addresses being captured by staff and the bus showing up early. Ms. Liska also spoke about the inconvenience of road closures near her residence and the impact it has on FLEX services for her family.

Michelle Brown, Connect Transit rider, shared a prepared statement regarding early Mobility bus arrivals, no-shows when the rider is present, and where buses early. She also shared her appreciation for the service we provide and the effort it takes to run an organization of this size.

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### a. Remembrance of Ryan Whitehouse

David Braun, Managing Director, stated that he and Interim Chair Hile wanted to give the Trustees an opportunity to remember and talk about what Ryan meant Connect Transit and the Community. He stated that it was an opportunity to speak to their work with Ryan and that a slide show highlighting some of the efforts Ryan had been a part of during his tenure and service to Connect Transit would be playing throughout the rest of the meeting.

Interim Chair Hile called for a moment of silence in honor of Ryan Whitehouse.

Trustees shared comments and memories of working with and knowing Ryan Whitehouse.

Interim Chair Hile opened the floor to the public attending the meeting.

Michelle Brown shared her appreciation of Ryan Whitehouse’s attention to their comments given to the Board.

##### b. Board Structure Discussion

Interim Chair Hile reassured the Trustees that she is committed to serving in the role as Board Chair. She shared that she has confidence that the Board will proceed judiciously and fairly while coming together to get things done right in service of our mission.

Interim Chair Hile explained that on October 28, 2025, she will have named her Interim Chair and Secretary, reaffirm the committees, and share ideas of her own for the Board.

She asked if the Trustees had any comments to share on the structure of the Board moving forward.

Trustees shared their support of Interim Chair Hile.

Interim Chair Hile reminded Trustees to please work with Board Clerk, Janice Crago, to confirm a date to work on the Strategic Plan before the end of the year.

#### **F. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Interim Chair Hile called for a Motion to Adjourn.**

Secretary Foster motioned; seconded by Trustee Buchanan.

**Rollcall Vote:**

AYE: Trustee Bianchi, Trustee Buchanan, Secretary Foster, Interim Chair Hile, Trustee Rao

NAY: None

The motion to adjourn the meeting was **approved at 6:12 p.m.**

*Linda Foster* 10/28/25  
Linda Foster, Board Secretary / Date

*Janice Crago* 10/29/25  
Janice Crago, Board Clerk / Date

[CONNECT TRANSIT SEAL]

