

**CONNECT TRANSIT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PROCEEDINGS OF APRIL 24, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Connect Transit was held at the Connect Transit Board Room #135, 351 Wylie Drive, Normal, Illinois 61761 on April 24, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Mike McCurdy, Chairman  
Ryan Whitehouse, Vice Chairman  
John Thomas, Trustee  
Judy Buchanan, Trustee  
John Bowman, Trustee  
Jennifer McDade, Trustee  
Monica Bullington, Trustee

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None.

CITY MANAGERS: Steve Rasmussen - Interim City Manager, City of  
Bloomington  
Pamela Reece, City Manager - Town of Normal

STAFF PRESENT: Isaac Thorne, General Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike McCurdy at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Annual Meeting of March 27, 2018;
2. Disbursements for month of March, 2018;
3. Financial Report for month of March, 2018;
4. Capital and Self Insurance Reserve Fund Balances for month of March, 2018;
5. Monthly Statistical Report for month of March, 2018; and
6. Cardinal Infrastructure Federal Report

Motion by Trustee Judy Buchanan was made to approve the *Consent Agenda* of the March 27, 2018 Annual and Regular Board Meetings. Motion was seconded by Trustee John Thomas.

There was no discussion regarding the *Consent Agenda*.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried and the *Consent Agenda* of the March 27, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Approval of Trustee John Bowman Travel Expenses*

Chairman Mike McCurdy requested that the Board approve Trustee John Bowman's travel expenses related to the *One Voice* trip to Washington, DC. Voting by roll call:

Mike McCurdy, Chairman	Aye
Ryan Whitehouse, Vice Chairman	Aye
John Thomas, Trustee	Aye
Judy Buchannan, Trustee	Aye
John Bowman, Trustee	Abstain
Jennifer McDade, Trustee	Aye
Monica Bullington, Trustee	Aye

By a voice vote, the Board approved Trustee John Bowman's reimbursement for travel expenses.

*Recommendation of Cash Farm Lease*

General Manager Isaac Thorne proposed the *Cash Farm Lease* for the Board's approval adding that going forward; the Staff will continue to search for new ways of continuing revenue for this acreage.

Trustee John Bowman made the Motion which was seconded by Trustee John Thomas approving the *Recommendation of Cash Farm Lease* by the Board. There was no discussion.

AYE: All

NAY: None.

Motion carried and the *Recommendation of Cash Farm Lease* was approved by the Board.

Proposal for Extended Bus Service Hours (Discussion Only)

Martin Glaze, Transit Operations Manager, proposed the extension bus service of one (1) hour past the 9:00 p.m. closing time of most restaurants and businesses, including the Mall, which would assist business employees and others who have a need for later services the ability to ride the bus after 9:00 p.m. The suggestion is to eliminate the TAN and BROWN peak time and that would give enough hours to extend service times on the other routes. The remaining hours would then be used towards reducing the YELLOW peak time during the school year. The GREEN, RED, LIME and YELLOW would benefit riders who need an extended time to ride in the evenings. Other hours would provide extended *Connect Mobility* hours that are required under ADA regulation. It was also proposed that Staff would hold community engagement sessions to receive community feedback on the proposal.

**DISCUSSION**

Board Members discussed certain aspects of this proposal. General Manager Thorne stated this is a proposal and procedural steps will need to be taken before a *Recommendation* is brought to the Board and added that the *Ad Hoc Budget Committee* involves the budget planning for upcoming years 2020-2021. This proposal is a 2018 modification to current routes and additional hours of service to Connect's main routes which represent over 60% of the ridership (outside of the REDBIRD EXPRESS). Staff further added that the Ridership Survey currently reflects that riders want (in the order listed); (i) on-time performance; (ii) frequency; and (iii) late night service. The general consensus of the Board was for Staff to continue to produce the numbers from the Ridership Survey and bring this proposal to the Board at that time for further discussion.

Proposed Route Adjustments FY2019 (Discussion Only)

Martin Glaze, Operations Manager, presented to the Board FY2019 route adjustments on LIME and PINK. The proposal suggests that LIME would service the Wal-Mart side of the street both northbound and southbound; and service Hovey between White Oak and Parkside. One benefit of the latter change would be to move ridership closer to locations such as Midwest Fiber and McLean County Unit 5 District Office. The PINK would service Starplex and Sky Zone by using McKnight Drive; and serve apartments on Shelbourne at Larry and Charlotte.

**DISCUSSION**

General Manager Thorne responded to Trustee Thomas that keeping routes as straight as possible is always best but that this route modification should not present any problem.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Thorne reported that the *Department of Transportation* has issued the *Notice for Funding Opportunities* for the *Low or No Emissions Grant* and the *TIGER Grant*. *Low or No Emissions Grant* was issued on Monday and the *TIGER Grant* went out last Friday. Staff is undecided on a grant application for the *TIGER Grant*, but will apply for the *Low or No Emissions grant*.

Connect will receive five (5) replacement buses in October from the *Illinois Department of Transportation Central Vehicle Procurement Program*.

Rider and Customer Service Surveys have started and should be wrapped up within the next two (2) weeks.

### **DISCUSSION**

Chairman McCurdy inquired what we are learning from the *Rider and Customer Service Surveys*. General Manager Thorne responded that we have learned that 23% of our riders are using another source of paid transportation at least once a week and 15% of our ridership is using it twice a week.

Trustee Buchanan requested a status update of the process for the *Downtown Transfer Center*. Isaac responded that the next step would be the issuance of the RFP for the *Feasibility Study* in June which hopefully would wrap up in January or February of 2019.

**TRUSTEE'S COMMENTS**

Steve Rasmussen expressed to the Board that Bloomington is working towards a clean-up at the current location downtown. The County and City are working together by cleaning out all of shrub and re-landscaping so that we can position another shelter there making the transfer site we have now more efficient and safe.

No further discussion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – ILCS 120/2(c)(2) – Collective Bargaining**

Trustee Judy Buchanan moved that the Board enter into Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Jennifer McDade.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried. The Board entered into Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn Regular Session by Trustee Judy Buchanan and seconded by Trustee Jennifer McDade.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.