

**CONNECT TRANSIT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS OF JULY 25, 2017**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Connect Transit was held at Uptown Station, 11 Uptown Circle, 4th Floor, Normal, Illinois 61761 on July 25, 2017 at 4:35 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Mike McCurdy, Chairman
 Ryan Whitehouse, Vice Chairman
 Lauren Lacy, Secretary
 John Bowman
 Jennifer McDade
 John Thomas

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Judy Buchanan

CITY MANAGERS: Mark Peterson, Town of Normal Manager

STAFF PRESENT: Isaac Thorne, Interim General Manager
 Julie Beer, Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:35 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Motion by Trustee John Bowman, seconded by Trustee Jennifer McDade to allow City of Bloomington Assistant City Manager, Steve Rasmussen to participate in the meeting.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting of June 27, 2017, Work Session Meeting of June 8, 2017, Budget Work Session of May 2, 2017, Executive Session of May 30, 2017 and Executive Session of March 21, 2017
2. Disbursements for Month of June, 2017
3. Financial Report for Month of June 2017
4. Capital and Self Insurance Reserve Fund Balances for month of June 2017
5. Monthly Statistical Report for month of June 2017
6. Federal Report for Connect Transit – Prepared by Cardinal Infrastructure

Motion by Trustee Lauren Lacy, seconded by Trustee John Thomas that the Consent Agenda be approved.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

FY2018 Route Proposal Recommendation

Isaac Thorne, Interim General Manager introduced this item. He stated that staff recommended the following changes. Additionally, staff intends to align the green, red, yellow, and pink at Uptown Station.

Green Route

The Green route does not stay on-time between the hours of 3pm and 6pm. To make the Green reliable and improve on-time performance the Green will take Beaufort Street going into and out of Uptown Station. If approved by the Board, this route change will go into effect on August 13, 2017.

Yellow Route

The Yellow route has an average of thirty-seven (37) boardings per hour, and 168,478 passengers year-to-date. To reduce over-crowding on the Yellow, an additional 15 minute frequency will be added to the route during peak hours of 7am-10am and 2pm-6pm. The time points on the Yellow route will also be changed to ensure that it meets the Red and Lime routes at Uptown Station. If approved by the Board this route change will go into effect on September 17, 2017.

Teal Route

The Teal route has nine (9) boardings per hour, and 46,261 passengers year-to-date. If the Teal route is eliminated, 76.5% of the rides will be covered by the Purple, Orange, and Red routes, and 23.5% are within .2 miles of another stop. If approved by the Board, the Teal route will be eliminated on September 17, 2017

Purple Route

The Purple route has an average of nine (9) boardings per hour, and 128,709 passengers year-to-date. The Purple route will be modified to go to Downtown Bloomington, Eastland Mall, and St. Joseph Hospital. The realignment of the Purple route is to make it more efficient and increase the boardings per hour. If approved by the Board, this change would go into effect on September 17, 2017.

Silver Route (New)

The west Bloomington portion of the Purple route will now be the Silver route, and will still serve Walmart (Bloomington), Alexander Estates, and Downtown Bloomington. This will not be interlined with the Purple route and is cost neutral. If approved by the Board, this change would go into effect on September 17, 2017.

Orange Route

The Orange route has an average of thirteen (13) boardings per hour, and 51,424 passengers year-to-date. The Orange route modification will have it traveling from Downtown Bloomington to State Farm Corporate South via Lincoln Street and back to Downtown. The Orange will still be interlined with the Aqua. This change would go into effect on September 17, 2017.

Aqua Route

The Aqua route has twenty (20) boardings per hour, and 65,207 passengers year-to-date. The modification to the Aqua route would only change the time points, while still being interlined with the Orange route. If approved by the Board this change would take place on September 17, 2017.

Normal Tripper

The Normal Tripper has almost seven (7) boardings per hour, and 1,458 passengers year-to-date. The Normal Tripper has just as many deadhead hours than it has revenue hours, and it costs \$26.90 per passenger. If approved by the Board, the elimination of the Normal Tripper would take place on August 25, 2017.

Bloomington Tripper

The Bloomington Tripper has almost three boardings per hour and 1,277 passengers year-to-date. The Bloomington Tripper also has as many deadhead hours as it has revenue hours, and it costs \$51.50 per passenger. If approved by the Board, the elimination of the Bloomington Tripper will take place on August 25, 2017.

Connect Mobility

The American Disabilities Act requires that Connect Mobility service run concurrently with fixed route service. Currently, Connect Mobility service operates beyond 9:30 pm, when the ISU Redbird Express service is not operating.

Connect Mobility has a monthly average of eleven (11) passengers between the hours of 9:30 pm and 11 pm. If approved by the Board, Connect Mobility Service would end at 9:30 p.m. when ISU Redbird Express service is not operating.

Motion by Trustee John Thomas, seconded by Trustee Jennifer McDade the route changes be approved.

AYE: Chairman Mike McCurdy, Vice Chairman Ryan Whitehouse, Secretary Lauren Lacy, Trustee Jennifer McDade, and Trustee John Thomas.

NAY: Trustee John Bowman

Motion carried.

Connect Mobility Premium Service

Interim General Manager Isaac Thorne introduced this item. He stated most feedback received from the community engagement sessions concerned the loss of the Connect Mobility service to individuals living beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ mile outside of the Connect Transit fixed route service area. Staff recommends increasing the service area, with a premium service charge for users beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile service area. Trips that are beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, but less than 1 mile will be charged \$3.00 and those beyond 1 mile, but less than 1.25 miles would be charged \$4.00. Additionally, with the loss of the YWCA Medivan Service, he believes this to be a good option for the community.

Trustee Jennifer McDade questioned how Connect Transit would be tracking the financial impact of this expanded service and how it would be shared with the Board. Mr. Thorne responded every premium service trip will be tracked separately from the regular Mobility service. A report could be provided to the Board.

Trustee John Bowman questioned if the premium service would be limited to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) eligible customers. Mr. Thorne responded that it would only be offered to customers who were ADA eligible.

Chairman Mike McCurdy noted the premium charge allows Connect Transit to recoup some of the cost associated with providing the Connect Mobility service.

Vice Chairman Ryan Whitehouse spoke in favor of this item. He noted it is an important, yet costly service to provide. The premium service charge is a good compromise. He hoped that all of the Trustees would vote in favor of this item.

Secretary Lauren Lacy agreed. She complimented staff, as they did a fantastic job of conducting many community engagement sessions, gathered feedback and worked with the community to find a solution.

Chairman Mike McCurdy concurred. Connect Transit has stepped up in the community to help fill the gap left with the discontinuation of the YWCA Medivan service.

Trustee John Bowman noted his regret that Connect Transit continues to cut service to areas of the community. It was his wish that Connect Transit be available to all not just those who are ADA eligible. Connect Transit is a community asset and everyone deserves the service.

Town of Normal Manager Mark Peterson agreed. He regretted having to cut services. The Board and staff are faced with very tough decisions to pull back on very important services that people rely on. The Board and staff have a fiduciary responsibility. It was his hope that Connect Transit is able to find a sustainable funding source so that it can expand service and do a better job of meeting the needs of the community.

Motion by Secretary Ryan Whitehouse, seconded by Trustee Jennifer McDade that the Connect Mobility Premium Service be approved.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Isaac Thorne, Interim General Manager addressed the Board. He stated that he, Chairman Mike McCurdy and Vice Chairman Ryan Whitehouse had recently travelled to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressional delegation and/or staffs. Their focus was discussing Connect Transit's need for infrastructure and replacing its aging fleet. They also had an opportunity to meet with members of the Federal Transportation Administration to discuss grant opportunities. Overall it was a successful trip.

He had just attended an Illinois Public Transportation Association meeting (IPTA) and was informed that Connect Transit would be receiving its 4th quarter payment from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) this week. This would be the fourth quarter payment for fiscal year 2017. It was expected that the first quarter payment for fiscal year 2018 would be received in the next 30 to 45 days.

Under the new state budget, revenue funding for downstate transit systems will be cut by 10%. IPTA is currently reviewing the needs of all downstate transit system to determine if there will be enough funds.

Connect Transit staff is currently working on a Bus and Bus Facilities Grant application to purchase 10 electric buses. The goal is to keep the grant request under \$3.5 million.

Connect Transit staff has also been working with the City of Bloomington on a Community Development Block Grant application for benches. He is hoping that permits for the installation will be received in the next couple of weeks.

Chairman Mike McCurdy questioned the permits. Mr. Thorne advised that IDOT and the City of Bloomington would issue permits to install the concrete pads that the benches would be placed on.

TRUSTEE'S COMMENTS

Trustee Jennifer McDade addressed the Board. She commended the Connect Transit staff for their work conducting the community engagement sessions. She was appreciative of the comment cards that were shared with the Board. Some of the comments received included many ideas for improvement of the system. She questioned any updates from the staff regarding these suggestions.

Isaac Thorne, Interim General Manager responded that many suggestions include installation of sidewalks, shelters, and stops. Staff is focusing on many of these suggestions. Another popular request is later service. Staff continues to look for funding sources for many of these improvements.

Vice Chairman Ryan Whitehouse addressed the Board. He echoed Mr. Thorne's comments concerning the Washington D.C. trip. It was very productive. He thanked the elected officials and their staffs for the time spent listening to Connect Transit's needs and concerns.

Chairman Mike McCurdy echoed Vice Chairman Whitehouse's comments. Public Transportation is bi-partisan, everyone needs it. It was a very productive trip.

City of Bloomington Asst. City Manager Steve Rasmussen informed the Board the City of Bloomington would be considering an ordinance to allow the electronic displays on buses at one of its August meetings. In addition, the City of Bloomington is considering updating the Intergovernmental Agreement that was last approved in 2012. He would return to the Connect Transit Board regarding same in the future.

Isaac Thorne, Interim General Manager informed the Board that Connect Transit has issued a Request for Proposals for the electronic displays. He anticipated coming back to the Board in the future with additional information regarding same.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Jennifer McDade, seconded by Trustee John Thomas to adjourn into Executive Session.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Time: 5:06 p.m.

Motion by Vice Chairman Ryan Whitehouse, seconded by Trustee Jennifer McDade to return to Regular Session.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Time: 5:18 p.m.

Ratification of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 752 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Vice Chairman Ryan Whitehouse addressed the Board. He stated Chairman Mike McCurdy had asked him, Secretary Lauren Lacy and Trustee John Thomas serve on the Labor Relations Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee met to review the proposed Labor Agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) – Local 752. The Labor Relations Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Agreement be ratified.

Chairman Mike McCurdy commended the Connect Transit staff and members of the ATU for working together on this Labor Agreement.

(ATU Local 752 Collective Bargaining Agreement of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2010 on file at the Connect Transit office.)

Motion by Vice Chairman Ryan Whitehouse, seconded by Trustee Jennifer McDade that the ATU Local 752 Collective Bargaining Agreement of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020 be approved.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Jennifer McDade, seconded by Trustee John Bowman to adjourn.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Time: 5:19 p.m.

Julie Beer, Executive Assistant