

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION (BPTC) JANUARY 13, 2015, 5:30 P.M.

In the Edward J. Kuntz Board Room of the Bloomington Transit Operating Facility, 130 W. Grimes Lane, Chairman McConn convened the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation.

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Chairman McConn, Vice Chairman McDaniel, Secretary Hasler, and Board Member Cartwright. Also present were Lewis May, General Manager, Brenda Underwood, Human Resources/Marketing Administration, Christa Browning, Controller, and a member of the public David Schleibaum.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

A member of the public, David Schleibaum, said he attended the City Council during the Budget Hearings and made some suggestions. He stated now that the new downtown Transit Center is open that he would like to see it certified as a Safe Place. He went on to say that when the weather is cold women and kids should be able to use it first so that they can have a place that they can get out of the cold in conjunction with the other shelters that are open. He said his other suggestion is to use the old facility and have it available for women and children as a place of shelter. Chairman McConn said that the old facility is going to be gone in a very short period time and that the property is not ours but the City's. The City has directed that they want it demolished. Mr. Schleibaum asked how long the old building was going to be up. He said if it is going to be up for a while we could use it for a place for Veterans first and then men for a place for them to stay overnight. Chairman McConn asked Mr. May to respond. Mr. May said we have been a Safe Place partner for a number of years and all of the BT buses are officially designated as a Safe Place and this office here is also designated as a Safe Place. We have a sign on the fence designating the Grimes Lane facility as a Safe Place. Our buses have Safe Place stickers on them designating them as Safe Places. Mr. May said he has no problem designating the new Downtown Transit Center as a Safe Place given that we have been involved in the program for several years. Mr. May stated that Safe Place is a program for children who are seeking a temporary place to get away from abuse or threatening situations. Designated Safe Places are not intended to be overnight or temporary shelters. If a child boards a bus or come to our Grimes Lane facility, BT staff contacts the Safe Place staff who then come and take the child to an appropriate shelter or foster home. The child is never left on a bus or at the Grimes Lane facility for very long. He said with regard to using the new Downtown Transit Center as a shelter that would violate our Public Code of Conduct that the Board adopted last year. He said the Transit Center is not a place to be used as a shelter or a place for people to loiter or hangout. It is intended as a place for people to use the transit system and wait for their bus and for that purpose alone. It is not intended to be a shelter as there are other places people can and should go for that purpose. Mr. Schleibaum said some friends of his own a laundry mat on the east side of town and this is the third winter that they have hired him as a night manager to oversee the place and lock it at night. Sometimes he encounters people there who are using the laundry as a shelter. He expressed concern that many people do not respect private property and often willfully damage private property as a result of using it for the purpose of shelter. He said what the City Council does not understand is that the City should protect private property from people

seeking to use it as shelter. Chairman McConn thanked Mr. Scheilbaum for his suggestion and asked Mr. May to look into designating the new Downtown Transit Center as a Safe Place. Mr. Schleibaum said we are just trying to figure out if there are other places that the City owns that potentially could be used as shelters. Mr. May said we will be glad to talk with the Safe Place group about designating the new Downtown Transit Center as a Safe Place. Board Member Cartwright asked if there were other Safe Places in the downtown area and are they predominately in the downtown area or are they spread around in different areas. Mr. Schleibaum said he believes that most of them are like the police station, fire stations, and schools. Mr. May said he does not know where all the locations are but he knows there are a lot of public agencies that are involved with the program. The Board thanked Mr. Scheilbaum for his attendance and suggestions.

MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Cartwright said he wanted to talk about Board appointments relative to the recent correspondence from the City Clerk's office. He said back in 2013 he got a letter from Sue Wanzer and she said that if he wanted to pursue reappointment to the Board he would have to reapply which he did. He said subsequently he was appointed to a three year term and he did not know why this is the case. Mr. May said we have some appointment letters on file that gives us terms and expiration dates. Board Member Cartwright said we are getting different information. Vice Chairman McDaniel said the City Boards webpage has had conflicting information on it. Board Member Cartwright said there is some confusion about who had the authority on this issue. Chairman McConn said the State Statute is the bottom line here. Vice Chairman McDaniel said if you have your reappointment letter you might want to keep it just in case. Mr. May said he will talk with Regina and try to clarify each and every board members exact expiration date so that there is no misunderstanding on their part or on Board Member's part. Vice Chairman McDaniel said he is sure his is expired and Nancy has reapplied. Chairman McConn asked in the case of Kent's reappointment which took over 2 years to get, did he get a new 4 year term. Vice Chairman McDaniel said he spoke with Barbara McKinney and she said that he only had 1 ½ years left so he needs to reapply. Board Member Cartwright said he does not want anyone to suffer from missing deadlines. Chairman McConn asked Mr. May to find out what the expiration dates are for each Board member and ask for the State Statute.

Vice Chairman McDaniel said not only did Truitt sponsor this bill but Ed Solliday from Valparaiso who is Chairman of the Transportation Committee and one of the majority leaders on the floor has signed on as a co-author and so did Ober. Mr. May said it is nice to have some people on the majority side who are supporting this bill. Mr. May said the Governor's Budget was released last week and the Governor is proposing a 3 percent across the board cut in PMTF funding. If passed by the General Assembly this would mean a cut in PMTF funding to BT of about \$75,000 annually. He said apparently there is no stated reason for the proposed cut other than for the sake of cutting without regard to the impact it has on services that we provide. He said he is hopeful that the representatives who offered these bills can make some headway with the majority which would be a tremendous improvement to transit funding.

Vice Chairman McDaniel said he sent out an email about legislation that Randy Truitt was going to introduce a bill that would appropriate 60 million dollars for public transportation statewide which would be up from the current 42.5 million. The bill number is 1215 and also there is another bill 379 which Mark Stoops is sponsoring and has discussed with us. The Stoops bill

specifically addresses only Bloomington Transit and Monroe County to increase the CEDIT County Economic Development Income Tax and use that to fund new transit service in Monroe County. He said the bill is written to provide a minimum of 1/10 of a percent tax which would generate 2.8 million dollars up to a maximum of 25/100 of a percent which would generate 6.9 million. He said Mark said he is amenable to friendly amendments from other PTCs across the State. It would require County Council approval.

Vice Chairman McDaniel presented the existing code on telecommunication devices and it is already in the law passed a couple of years ago. Now a bill has been drafted to add phones to it so you won't be able to use a cell phone in a moving vehicle. The concern with public transit operators is how this could affect the use of mobile data terminals or two way radio use in buses. Mr. May said we have a prohibition for employees using cell phones while they are driving or anytime their vehicle is moving. Vice Chairman McDaniel asked if we use mobile data terminals in our paratransit service. Mr. May said BT does not currently use mobile data terminals but may in the future. Chairman McConn said the code seems to be written in a very generic fashion that might include the prohibition in using mobile data terminals. Mr. May said we want to be sure that the bill doesn't prohibit the use of mobile data terminals, otherwise several transit systems could be affected. Vice Chairman McDaniel said if a driver were to reach over and touch a button on the mobile data terminal while driving that might constitute a violation of the law, so that needs to be carefully considered.

MESSAGES FROM THE MANAGER

Mr. May said the first Board meeting of each year we traditionally review accomplishments and successes from the past year and then look ahead to the new year identifying goals and objectives. He said 2014 was a year of significant success and accomplishment for Bloomington Transit. He presented a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted some of the notable accomplishments in 2014 that included the following:

- Ridership Increase of 1.5 percent
- Downtown Transit Center Completion
- BT DoubleMap Bus Tracker Usage Growth
- New BT Access Vehicles Delivered
- 40-foot Bus Award from INDOT
- Successful State Board of Accounts Audit with no Findings
- Implementation of new Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Completed Ridership Profile and Data Collection for BT System
- Developed and Implemented a new Public Code of Conduct
- Hosted ITA Annual Meeting in Bloomington
- New Freedom Grant Award for Mobility Management and Voucher Program
- 2014 Stuff-A-Bus
- Reduction in Preventable/Non-preventable Accidents
- Small Capital Project Procurements and Awards
- Reduction in Road Calls

Mr. May identified a number of goals and objectives for 2015 that included the following:

- Additional 40-foot Bus Procurement and Award
- Additional BT Access Vehicle Purchases
- New BT Access Scheduling and Vehicle Tracker Technology
- Completion of Downtown Bus Tracker Technology System
- New Mobile Website
- Develop a Transit Asset Management Plan
- Develop a Consumer Education Program as Part of the Mobility Management Program
- Acquisition of New Support Vehicles
- State Legislation
- Unification of Vehicle Maintenance Services with IU Campus Bus and Continued Efforts Toward Full Unification
- New Shelters
- Demolition of 4th and Washington Facility
- Compliance with Affordable Care Act Requirements
- New Fuel Usage Software/Hardware
- Ridership Gains
- Accident Reduction
- Mobile Lift Installation
- Lead Silver Certification for the Downtown Passenger Center
- Procurement of Bus Advertising Contract
- Procurement of Facility Maintenance Agreement
- Procurement of Transit Management Contract
- Contract with Miller Transportation for Intercity Bus Program

Mr. May asked the Board if there were any other goals or objectives that they would like to see the organization pursue in 2015. The Board congratulated the staff for a successful 2014 and concurred with the goals and objectives identified by Mr. May.

Mr. May noted included in the Board Packet a table that shows all of our Capital projects that we submitted to the MPO for inclusion in the new Transportation Improvement Program that the Policy Committee will be considering. He said these are the projects he submitted on behalf of BT for the next four years. He said some of the assumptions we made include increasing Federal operating assistance by 2 percent per year. He said we are also showing 5316 JARC funding at about \$100,000 annually to fund late night service. This comes from about \$500,000 in carryover JARC funding that should last about five years assuming FTA allows the grant to remain open that long. He said we are requesting about \$2.52 million in STP funds for the purchase of five (5) 40-foot diesel buses. He said this would be our first effort to get local STP funds for Bloomington Transit. He said the road and highway funds can be flexed to transit but require the approval of the MPO Policy Committee. The MPO may not have use for all STP funding in 2016 and as such BT has submitted a project that could use some or all of the STP funding for that year. He said we have a real need to replace 40-foot buses and we will need discretionary funding to do so as there is currently insufficient Federal formula funds for bus replacement. Board Member Cartwright noted that was really brilliant to see that opportunity and jump in on it as we are going to have to find dollars for future bus replacements.

Mr. May said under the Capitalizing the Purchase of Engines Transmissions Rebuilds Tires item he added a new term Hybrid Batteries. He said we have our first balky hybrid battery from a 2006 bus that we believe may go bad this year. Typical lifespan for a hybrid battery set is 6-7 years and we have gotten 8 years out of this particular battery set on this bus. As such, we wouldn't be surprised to begin seeing other hybrid batteries that need to be replaced as they reach the 68 year timeframe. He said he has increased this line item in the TIP starting in 2016 by about \$36,000 each year and it increases slightly year after year to cover one hybrid battery set each year. He said most of the fare collection equipment that includes our fareboxes and fare collection technology dates back to 2002 and is nearing the end of its useful life. He said we would like to eventually update to a swipe card system and we are estimating \$1.5 million to replace all this equipment. Given the large size of this project, it will take Federal discretionary funds to complete. He said the last thing is the upgrade of the garage exhaust system. He said the Bloomington Transit side of the garage was upgraded so that it can handle the higher temperature bus exhaust in 2013. At that time, we did not upgrade the IU Campus Bus as the bids came in higher than expected and because IU did not have any buses that were generating the higher temperature exhaust then. The idea was to upgrade the BT side and come back at a later date and do the IU side. He said he has it programmed in 2016 at \$60,000 and IU would provide the local share for that. He said IU is rehabbing their buses and buying some new buses that will have higher temperature exhaust. As such, this project has been programmed for 2016. He said all the other things are routine items that we have talked about and included in past TIPs. Mr. May said he would be glad to answer any questions on any of the other projects. He said included in the packet is a Federal Funds Forecast that projects how much federal funding we are going to get over the next four years. This forecast subtracts the use of Federal funds out for programmed projects and the Federal funds balance gradually shrinks to almost zero by the end of 2018. He said we have always had a very healthy balance of Federal Funds but we are going to be shrinking that balance to almost zero by the end of the four years and wanted the Board to be aware of that.

MESSAGES FROM THE CONTROLLER

There were no messages from Controller Browning.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

There was no New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

MINUTES

The minutes for December 16, 2014 were presented for approval by Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The minutes were approved unanimously.

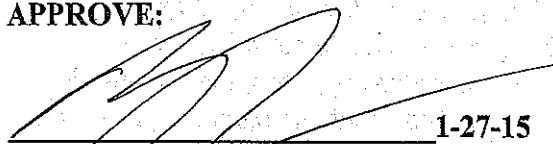
The minutes for December 31, 2014 were presented for approval by Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The minutes were approved unanimously.

CLAIMS

The claims for January 13, 2015 were presented for approval by Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The claims were approved unanimously.


ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:



1-27-15
Ray McConn, Chairman
Board of Directors BPTC

ATTEST:



1-27-15
Gloria Hasler, Secretary
Board of Directors BPTC