

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING - BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
CORPORATION (BPTC) APRIL 21, 2015, 5:30 P.M.**

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

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Chairman Obermeyer, Vice Chairman McDaniel, Secretary Hasler, Board Member Jim McLary and Board Member Cartwright. Also present were Lewis May, General Manager, Christa Browning, Controller, Brenda Underwood, Human Resource/Marketing Administrator, Ian Patton, Operations Manager and member of the public Lillian Henegar, Bloomington Township Trustee.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

There were no petitions and communications on non-action items.

MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chairman McDaniel noted this could be the last week of the General Assembly. He said that technically they go until next Wednesday. He said they are in the midst of doing Conference Committee Meetings and then they go to the floor for a vote. He said he went to testify at a hearing for the Budget Bill last Friday. He said the day before there was a very productive meeting that our ITA lobbyist, Mark Palmer, set-up. He got the CEO of IU Health from Lafayette, a representative from White Lodging (a part of the Marriott chain) and the General Manager of the Marriott store, someone from Ivy Tech Ft. Wayne, and a representative from Chamber of Commerce in Indianapolis and they all met with Tim Brown the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and made the argument that their businesses needed good public transportation. He said many of their employees rely on public transit to get to work and one even said they even ride the buses to work. He said he told Mark Palmer if anything good comes out of this it will probably be because of that meeting. He said we will know soon.

MESSAGES FROM THE MANAGER

Mr. May said a partnership has been announced that the new hospital location will be on the bypass just to the northeast of the IU CIB complex. He said the new location is actually inside the City boundaries which is positive and of course much closer to the heart of Bloomington as well instead of being several miles outside of Bloomington. He said in that respect he thinks it is a good decision. He said it is going to be much easier to serve the hospital with transit at the newly announced location. He said the challenge that we have is where will the funding come from to provide such service. He added that it is going to be difficult to serve the new location with an existing route. As such, we are probably going to have to come up with a new route and a new route will require new funding. He said and our current funding is shrinking rather than growing. He said on the bright side no time table has been presented yet as to when the hospital will be operational. He said he thinks it will be a minimum of 2 years and more likely in the range of 2-5 years. He said it gives us some time to study the route situation as to how we would

serve it, what it would cost, and how it might be funded. He said staff will review existing routes to first determine if there is a way to realistically restructure an existing route to go there. Such a strategy could help to keep the cost down. He said the other thing we will look at is our entire route structure between now and then to better determine if there are any economies or efficiencies that could be realized to generate savings that could be used for a new service to the hospital. He said it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to serve the new location and somehow we have to solve the funding issue. Board Member Cartwright said he was thinking originally having a dedicated route coming from the downtown transfer center. Mr. May noted that we carry about 100 passenger trips a day total on the whole system to/from the current hospital using two different routes. He said on a typical weekday we carry as many as 18,000 passenger trips with only about 100 of those being hospital-related. In the grand scheme of things, the hospital generates very small ridership. He said still that is not a reason for us to say we cannot serve it. He said it is the primary health care facility in the community and we have to find a way to serve it well. He said his preliminary assessment is we should probably service the new hospital location with a downtown-oriented route that links up to all the routes in the system so that people can make that connection from anywhere in the City to get there. This would likely require a new route to do that because we do not have a route to that area.

Board Member McLary asked do you think if there has been any thought given the IU Campus bus system moving out there and basically then tying into BT. Mr. May said it's possible that IU Campus Bus will serve the new location given it will be on university property and the fact that this northeast area of campus has been developed in recent years. He said they have not added a lot of classroom facilities out there at present. Board Member McLary said he was thinking that would take some of the financial pressure off if it was instead served by IU Campus Bus. Mr. May said the problem is the university does not come into our downtown transit center with their routes. He added that we do have routes that intersect with the university routes but it would be preferable to serve it without a transfer being required. Vice Chairman McDaniel said another big issue is funding for IU Campus Bus. Campus Bus has in recent years been cutting service every year. Mr. May agreed noting their resources are very limited and they have been in a service reduction mode for 3-5 years. Vice Chairman McDaniel said he was not sure what the numbers are on route miles but he is sure they are down. He said they used to run 20-22 buses and now they run 16. Mr. May said their ridership is down considerably. Vice Chairman McDaniel said cutting routes hurts your ridership. Chairperson Obermeyer noted it makes you wonder about the potential for Bloomington Transit and IU Campus Bus to interact more closely together. Mr. May said he would go even further than that and say we need to come up with plan to unify the two systems that will be acceptable to INDOT. Mr. May noted that he recently has proposed to IU that we need to go and present our case for unification to INDOT soon. He said part of the reason for this is that Indianapolis is finally getting support for a regional transit system and he expects them to take a bigger and bigger slice of the PMTF funding in the future as they add service and grow their ridership. He reminded the Board that we visited INDOT more than a year ago and made our case to them. INDOT told us at the time they are studying the formula and to not expect PMTF funding for a unified system until INDOT finishes their study. He said INDOT recently finished that study and the conclusion that they came to is not to change the formula. Thus, Mr. May said he thinks now is the right time for us to go back to INDOT and make the case again. Board Member Cartwright said we need their buses and they need our routes in order to get that done and he thinks there is a synergy there that could be worked out. Mr. Cartwright said the complex out there is going to be adding several hundred new employees as they build up the research facility and academic buildings. He said this is

going to be a driver for providing better public transportation out there. He said what they are doing there for the medical school and medical education will provide powerful leverage with legislature. Board Member McLary said the university has money and he thinks they need to be pushed hard to pay their fair share or provide service to the new hospital using a university route. Mr. May said there are examples in other urban areas in Indiana where hospitals help pay for transit service. He said we have a few years to study the issue and is confident the City will pull us into the conversation and the dialog about transportation plans.

Mr. May said FTA has reviewed our arrangement with Miller Transportation and have given it their approval with a couple of caveats. One such caveat is that any revenue we generate from this must be reinvested in FTA eligible activities which we were planning on doing anyway. He said our plan for the use of ticket and freight revenues is to provide additional staffing at the Downtown Transfer Center which is an FTA eligible activity. He said secondly they said the approval was based on having no other interested providers and we have approached the other two bus transportation providers in town and offered them the use of the facility for fair and reasonable compensation. Neither of those bus transportation providers is pursuing that at this time. He said assuming the Board approves the agreement we will have Miller come in and begin training our staff in ticketing and freight operations and once we feel that our staff is competent and proficient in that we will set a date to begin operation. Board Member McLary asked if one of the other carriers decided they wanted to use the facility would you make that available to them. Mr. May said we absolutely would assuming they are willing to pay fair and reasonable compensation. Mr. May noted that we had offered to let GoExpress Shuttle service use the facility for the equivalent of about \$13/day which is \$400/month. GoExpress has not taken us up on that offer.

Mr. May said the MPO Policy Committee approved our request for STP funding. He said we did not get as much as we had asked for which was \$2.5 million dollars. Instead our bus replacement project has been programmed in the TIP for \$360,000 in Federal STP funds in 2016 that combined with local match will be enough for one bus to be received in 2017. In addition, there is \$1.44 million programmed in the TIP for four 40-foot buses in 2017. He said next month the MPO will consider a new TIP and there is always a possibility that they could change their mind but hopefully that will not be the case. He said STP funds are normally used for federal road and highway projects. This would be the first time such funds have been programmed for transit purposes. He said Rural Transit got \$160,000 in STP funding to help fund some of their vehicle maintenance needs.

He said Senate Bill 379 is dead and we did not get a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee in spite of having good bipartisan support at the local level by Matt Ubelhor, Matt Pierce and Mark Stoops. He said Matt Ubelhor and Matt Pierce were co-sponsors on the house side of the bill but ultimately the bill failed because they were not able to convince Chairman Tim Brown of the House Ways and Means Committee to give it a hearing. He said we will work with Mark Stoops and Matt Ubelhor again next year in an effort to get a similar bill passed and signed into law.

Mr. May said our fixed route ridership was down slightly by about .23 percent or about 753 riders in the month of March compared to March 2014. He said year-to-date ridership is basically flat for March compared to last year on fixed route. He said BT Access ridership was up 27 percent in March compared to March of last year. He said BT Access is up 21 percent

year-to-date compared to the same period last year. He said we primarily contribute it to better winter weather this year.

Mr. May noted that the next Board Meeting will be in three weeks on May 12 given that election day is on May 5.

Mr. May said the Board suggested that we name the Downtown Transit Center after Ray McCann in honor of his years of service to BPTC and the community. Mr. May noted that he forwarded this suggestion to the City given that the facility is shared with the City/County Emergency Dispatch Center. He said legal counsel has advised us to get the Condo Board to agree as the Mayor's office has no concerns about it. The next step is for BPTC and the City to agree on a third member of the Condo Board. Board Member McLary suggested Kirk White and noted he has been very active in a lot of things. Mr. May said Lynn Coyne who used to work at IU would also be a possibility. Board Member Cartwright suggested Denise Alano. Secretary Hasler suggested John Whikehart. Mr. May said he will forward these names to the Deputy Mayor for consideration.

MESSAGES FROM THE CONTROLLER

Controller Browning gave an overview of the March Financial Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

Under New Business, Board Member Cartwright moved to approve Resolution 15-08; a resolution authorizing the BPTC Chair to execute an agreement with Miller Transportation Inc. for incidental use of the Downtown Transit Center for their Hoosier Ride service. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hasler. Resolution 15-08 was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

MINUTES

The minutes for March 24, 2015 were presented for approval by Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The minutes were approved by all Board Members.

The minutes for April 7, 2015 were presented for approval by Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The minutes were approved by all Board Members.


CLAIMS

The claims for April 21, 2015 were presented for approval by Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The claims were approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT


APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Nancy Obermeyer, Chairman
Board of Directors BPTC

06-16-15



Gloria Hasler, Secretary
Board of Directors BPTC

06-16-15