

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING - BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION (BPTC) JUNE 15, 2021, 5:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

Chair Obermeyer convened the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation. The meeting was held with some members attending in-person and some via a virtual electronic means.

Join Zoom Meeting at the following link:

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/86332975321?pwd=WEZRTEzPYndCZ21hRmtpT1R6LzdOQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 3297 5321

Passcode: 452083

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**ROLL CALL**

Board Members and staff present: Chair Nancy Obermeyer, Vice Chair Kent McDaniel, Board Member Marilyn Hartman, Secretary James McLary and Board Member Doug Horn. Also present were Lewis May, General Manager, Christa Browning, Controller, Brenda Underwood, Director of Human Resources and Marketing, Zac Huneck, Planning and Special Projects Manager and Eli McCormick, Customer Service Manager/BT Access Manager.

Members of the Public: Dave Askins, B Square Beacon

## PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Dave Askins, B Square Beacon, questioned the City's website where it states that the estimated time for the board's time commitment is 2 to 3 hours a month. His opinion was that this was a little low. He thought maybe this is something the board could reflect upon.

### MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There was no comment from Board Members.

### MESSAGES FROM THE MANAGER

Mr. May noted the ridership has somewhat rebounded since a year ago during the pandemic. He stated we are still considerably under what we would normally be this time of year. He has spoken to other transit systems around the state and most are running about fifty percent of what they would normally operate. We are in the same range of some of the other transit systems.

Average weekday ridership per month since the pandemic began is shown in the table below:

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2020/2021 Average Weekday Ridership</b>	<b>2019 Average Weekday Ridership</b>
January	12,487	12,183
February	16,922	14,740
March (thru spring break)	10,736	9,618
March (post spring break)	1,503	14,746
April	1,266	14,081
May	1,399	5,651
June	1,913	5,051
July	1,990	4,779
August	2,630	8,213
September	3,627	17,028
October	3,562	16,672
November	3,039	14,494
December	2,147	11,656
January 2021	2,298	12,487
February 2021	3,330	16,922
March 2021	3,543	7,798
April 2021	3436	1266
May 2021	2667	1399

In Monroe County in the past month the number of positive cases for COVID-19 by day has been declining in recent weeks, per the Indiana State Department of Health. Positive cases for Monroe County are relatively low as compared to other times during the pandemic, cases have come down considerably in recent weeks. He noted that as of June 1<sup>st</sup> the administrative staff was authorized to return to the office. We are preparing for the implementation of resumption of fare collection and front door boarding July 1<sup>st</sup>. The downtown transit center and Grimes Lane facility will be reopening to the public as well on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Masks are still required on buses through September by federal law.

Eli McCormick, Customer Service Manager, share the results of the BT Access customer satisfaction survey. He said we did an online survey and mailed out paper forms as well. He said we received a good response. He presented all the ratings and responses in the power point. Eli stated over all the ratings are good or excellent and 95% rated us good or excellent in overall customer satisfaction. All comments and ratings are available if any Board Member wants to review any of them.

Mr. May discussed proposed new service concepts. One, is providing service to the new hospital, which will be opening in mid-November and also with respect to micro-mobility, we have a pilot program in the budget this year for microtransit. We have had discussions with Uber and Lyft and a microtransit pilot project that could potentially use their services. We are interested in any comments or feedback or any concerns you may have about the proposed concept that Zac Huneck will share.

Mr. Huneck stated the proposal is for new service between the new IU Health Hospital and Downtown, which is Route 10, would be 6.5 miles round trip with a 60 minute frequency. Mon-Fri: 7:00 am – 11:00 pm. And Sat: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. Mr. Huneck shared a map of the proposed routing with a summary of the basic service frequency, days of service, and proposed hours.

Mr. May stated we are proposing to eliminate the existing route 8 Eastside Local which is one of the least productive routes in the system and replace it with a microtransit pilot project that could demonstrate the feasibility of using microtransit service in place of poor performing fixed route service. The idea is that microtransit may have some potential to result in cost savings. Zac noted in the place of route 8 we are proposing a micro-mobility service concept with a voucher subsidy program in partnership with Uber and Lyft and potentially other taxi services in the city. This microtransit would replicate the current fixed route 8 about a quarter mile off its current corridor which amounts to a little under 3 square miles in total. This would be a Monday through Saturday service just like route 8 about 8:30 am to 7:30 pm. Zac stated we want to replicate the fixed route service as much as we can, so we propose doing a dollar flat fare with the remaining cost of the trip up to 15 dollars BT as subsidy by BT. Mr. May noted it would be easy to use BT Access to handle wheel chair trips or non-ambulatory persons with different mobility devices. Mr. May proposes the next steps for the July board meeting would be to come back with the service parameters of how the Uber and Lyft service works, fare structure, response time, any other operational parameters that we would use in soliciting interest from service providers such as Uber and Lyft and or local taxi providers for the Board's review. We would also propose a public hearing towards the end of July where we would propose the elimination of route 8 and replacing it with this micro-mobility concept.

Secretary McLary suggested we need to take a look at the Moovit App. He said the app is free and it allows us to add other service providers to it. He stated he saw a demonstration of it and thought it would be beneficial. Secretary McLary noted, he thinks that the new services that were proposed are good concepts. Mr. May stated with the Board's approval he would schedule a public hearing in the later part of July, it would be separate from the regular monthly board meeting. The Board concurred with scheduling a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposal to replace Route 8 with microtransit service.

Mr. May noted that we are nearing the end of our current agreement with IU which ends on June 30 of this year. He said we are about to start the new school year, so we need to get a new agreement in place. He stated this is a very unusual upcoming IU school year for the 2021-2022 for a number of reasons as follows.

- We are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic with IU students expected to return to in-person classes in the fall of 2021.
- Our collective bargaining agreement (CBA) expires December 31, 2021 and we don't know yet what impact a new agreement could have on wage and benefit costs beyond December 31, 2021.
- We remain critically short-handed in terms of drivers and it remains to be seen how much campus service we'll be able to restore in the fall 2021.

Mr. May stated we have made proposals to IU already, we have received their feedback. Staff recommends a six month agreement with IU rather than a full year agreement, then we would negotiate an additional agreement or addendum for the final half of the school year. We propose to do that in the November-December time frame. Mr. May stated that would give us some additional time to begin negotiations with our union towards a new collective bargaining agreement. We reached a tentative agreement with IU on a 1 percent increase for student revenue for the first six months and it will be structured similar to the agreement we have currently which prorates the amount we receive based on actual service provided compared to normal. We have the faculty and staff pass program in this element as well. We proposed we will continue to charge faculty and staff at the rate of .75 cents per trip. That would be capped at \$65,000 over the six month period. Mr. May noted another service we provide for IU is the washing and fueling of their fleet. Christa has developed the cost projections for that for the first six months and projects about a 1.66 percent increase. Lastly a cost that we pass on to the University is for snow removal at our Grimes Lane Facility. We propose to keep that unchanged at \$250 per occurrence with an annual ceiling of \$2,500. Mr. May noted that under New Business, resolution 21-16 is included for the Board's consideration.

Mr. May noted we currently have a contract with HFI for preventative maintenance for the Downtown Transit Center for \$17,500 a year. The contract expires June 30, 2021. The current contract is a 3-year base contract and it has 3 option years in it. We are finishing up the 5<sup>th</sup> year right now and there is one remaining option year left in the contract. The cost is the same as the previous 5 years at \$17,500 a year. Staff recommends that we exercise the remaining option year.

Board Member Horn questioned, looking ahead to next year about what would that process look like? Mr. May stated that about six months from the end of the contract next year you would need to do a request for proposals. You would solicit proposals from interested firms that perform the same kind of preventive maintenance. Then evaluate the proposals and award to the highest scoring proposal. We have a similar contract in place for the Grimes Lane location with Siemens.

Brenda Underwood, Human Resource Administrator/Marketing Director provided an update on our recent hiring initiatives. She noted we continue to advertise job openings, and all of our advertising efforts prior to and up to now we have received around 50 applicants. Out of those applicants we had 6 no shows for interviews and 3 with background issues. We have 16 potential applicants, some of who are still working. We'll get background information and driving records on those applicants. We have offered 6 positions so far, out of that 2 people stopped showing up, 2 currently are in training and 2 did not go for their drug screens. Brenda said we will continue to promote all the job openings, through radio, social media, our website, and newspaper. They now have the option to go on the BT website and apply online and the applications go straight to Brenda. Brenda stated that she hopes this helps getting more applicant.

Secretary McLary asked if we inquire where the applicants heard about the job openings. Brenda noted that yes we do ask. A lot of the applicants came from Facebook Advertising. She said we are planning another job fair June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Also after the job fair she will be following up again on all the applicants. Mr. May noted that we need around a dozen drivers. He said if we could get enough qualified applicants we would even hire as many as twenty.

Zac Huneck presented the May operating statistics as shown below.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Fixed Route Ridership	62,408	34,256	82%
Year-To-Date	358,334	904,696	(60%)
BT Access Ridership	1,686	542	211%
Year-To-Date	7,688	9,036	(15%)

### **MESSAGES FROM THE CONTROLLER**

Controller Browning gave an overview of the May Financial Report as included in the Board packet.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT-ACTION ITEMS**

No messages from the public.

**NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS**

Board Member Hartman made a motion to approve Resolution 21-16 approving an Inter-local Cooperation Agreement between Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation and Indiana University. The motion was seconded by Secretary McLary. The motion was approved unanimously.

Secretary McLary made a motion to approve Resolution 21-17 authorizing the exercise of an option for a one-year contract extension with Harrell-Fish, Inc. (HFI) to conduct facility preventative maintenance and technical support for the Downtown Transit Center Facility. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair McDaniel. The motion was approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the April 20, 2021 meeting were presented for approval by Secretary McLary and seconded by Board Member Horn. The minutes were approved by all Board members with Vice Chair McDaniel abstaining.

The minutes for the May 18, 2021 meeting were presented for approval by Secretary McLary and seconded by Board Member Horn. Vice Chair McDaniel requested an amendment to the minutes


**CLAIMS**

The claims for June 15, 2021 were presented for approval by Vice Chairman McDaniel and seconded by Board Member Horn. Minutes were approved by all Board Members with Board Member Hartman abstaining.

**ADJOURNMENT**

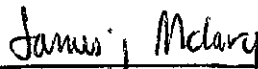
**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**



06-15-21

**Nancy Obermeyer, Chair  
Board of Directors BPTC**



06-15-21

**James J. McLary, Secretary  
Board of Directors BPTC**