

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION (BPTC) NOVEMBER 16, 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/87311585896?pwd=d2RseHlCYzY5RkJPm1d0akVoc3Jsdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 1158 5896
Passcode: 649027

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ROLL CALL

Board Members and staff present: Chair Nancy Obermeyer, Board Member Marilyn Hartman, Secretary James McLary, and Board Member Doug Horn. Also present were John Connell, General Manager, Christa Browning, Controller, Zac Huneck, Planning and Special Projects Manager, Brenda Underwood, Human Resource Administrator/Marketing Director and Mike Clark, Operations Manager.

Members of the Public: Dave Askins, B Square Beacon

The following additional persons were also present via Zoom. Vice Chair, Kent McDaniel, Eli McCormick, Customer Service Manager/BT Access Manager and Andrew Coomer.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

MINUTES

The minutes for the October 19, 2021, meeting were presented for approval by Board Member Horn and seconded by Board Member Hartman. The minutes were approved. Chair, Obermeyer abstained.

NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

Board Member Hartman made a motion to approve Resolution 21-24: a resolution approving Addendum to the November 15, 2016, Inter-local cooperation Agreement between the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation and the City of Bloomington for professional services, thereby extending by one year on the same terms that applied in 2021. Secretary McLary seconded it. The board approved unanimously.

Vice Chair McDaniel made a motion to approve Resolution 21-25; a resolution authorizing exercising the Year 4 Option of Preventative Maintenance and Technical Support Program from Siemens for Grimes Lane Facility from 12/01/2021-11/30/2022 in the amount of \$41,304.00. Secretary McLary seconded it. The board approved unanimously.

Secretary McLary made a motion to approve Resolution 21-26; a resolution adopting Bloomington Public Transportation Corporations's revised Anti-Drug and Alcohol Misuse Policy. Board Member Hartman seconded it. The Board approved unanimously.

Vice Chair McDaniel made a motion to approve Resolution 21-27; a resolution authorizing the BPTC Chair to execute a grant agreement for 2022 with the Indiana Department of Transportation for financial assistance through the Public Mass Transit Fund under (I.C. 8-9.5-6-4.) Secretary McLary seconded it. The Board approved unanimously.

MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Connell gave an overview of Covid-19 ridership. Mr. Connell noted we are still 40 plus percent down from where we should be. He stated that one thing contributing to this is that we

do not have all the service out on the street like we would like to because of the driver shortage. He is confident things will get better and noted that we have had no positive Covid-19 test this month. Secretary McLary asked how much service are we down? Mr. Connell stated that for the University, we are running about 70% of what we would normally. He said it still comes back to the driver shortage and this is still the number one priority to get more drivers hired.

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

	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2019-2021
January	12183	12487	2298	-81.14%
February	14740	16922	2893	-80.37%
March	12060	7798	3543	-70.62%
April	14081	1266	3436	-75.60%
May	5405	1399	2667	-50.66%
June	5051	1913	2516	-50.19%
July	4779	1990	2410	-49.57%
August	8213	2630	5720	-30.35%
September	17028	3627	9126	-46.41%
October	16672	3562	8694	-47.85%
November	14494	3039		
December	11656	2147		

Mr. Connell discussed the #2, route changes, which we were presented to the board last month. He stated we were all set to implement the revised route. Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck held a public outreach session at the Downtown Bus Terminal. Mr. Connell noted after advertising the implementation of the change we did receive some comments from the public voicing some concerns. Mr. Connell noted we will address some of their concerns. Zac has come up with a couple of options for consideration or discussion.

Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck, gave an overview of the revised number two route. Zac noted one change that has been made from the original recommendation from the route optimization studies was a deviation to the Crescent Bend Neighborhood. Since the plan was put on hold there has been a new apartment complex built and it has been a big source of ridership. He stated the new apartment complex is one of the most popular destinations and origins on the route now, this is the reason for the deviation.

Secretary McLary questioned if we have an agreement to service directly the new apartment complex north of 17th street? Zac noted that it is still a couple of years out. He stated when it does come in, we will provide service to the new apartment complex and the general public can ride also. Down the line it will also run service along 17th Street. The target date for that is around 2023.

Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck noted that there are transfers being missed downtown and it is crucial that we make some changes to shorten the route. A major change would be to eliminate the Tri-North area. Zac noted during the route optimization studies, they did hear from citizens that wanted to preserve that area. He said the ridership numbers do not support that. He also presented some other options that are in the board packet.

Mr. Connell noted the primary goal was to create some recovery time so the bus could stay on schedule. The original plan from the route optimization study achieved that objective. He said a lot has changed since the public hearings and when the original processed started. We are now reintroducing these changes to the public even though two years ago we were given the blessing to proceed. He stated moving forward with the route optimization study most likely we will encounter the same type of concerns and we can be prepared to listen to the citizens and ultimately come up with a plan that works. He said in version number three we are trying to create recovery time and preserve the level of service in the Crestmont Area.

Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck gave an overview of a temporary solution to serve the new IU Health Hospital which opens the beginning of December.

Board Member Horn questioned when the evaluation for the temporary route for IU Health will occur and how often? Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck stated it will be similar to the other routes and they will look at the ridership on a monthly basis. Zac noted the temporary route for the new IU Health Hospital will be an hourly schedule starting at 7:10 a.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Connell gave a quick recap on the APTA EXPO. He stated he and Zac had a list of vendors they wanted to see, and they also sat through several CAD/AVL demonstrations. He said a couple of them blew him away in terms of the technology that's available out there right now. The 5339 grant application we want to include roughly \$350000 for a CAD/AVL complete system that would pair transit, the fixed route, and micro transit to be able to have turnkey solution. Mr. Connell noted there was so much technology and equipment at the convention it took two and half days to see it all. He said he thinks the demonstrations with the CAD/AVL system were the most beneficial. Mr. Connell and Zac also got to speak to the new President of GFI and several of the vendors which was very beneficial and interesting as well.

Secretary McLary questioned Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck on what he thought was the most impressive? Zac stated that the CAD demos were very impressive and also just seeing all the powerful tools that are out there that could be beneficial for the future.

Mr. Connell stated they left the working session with the consensus that we want to start the process of developing a strategic plan. He said he would like some guidance from the board and questioned if we would want to solicit some professional help, in terms of a consultant or something as simple as needing a facilitator to help guide the process. Mr. Connell noted there does not have to be a decision made today, he would just like some guidance from the Board of how to proceed forward.

Board Member Horn stated he feels a facilitator would be beneficial. Secretary McLary stated the consultants reports that were already sent to them were not what he was looking for. Board Member Horn questioned whether they were really helpful to management as a guiding document or are they just there as a public relations tool to train the public on what the corporation is trying to do. Board Member Horn feels a facilitator would be a good place to start. It would allow staff to speak to their issues and as well as the Board's input. Secretary McLary noted he tends to agree with Board Member Horn that a facilitator is a good idea.

Board Member Hartman questioned the purpose of a facilitator. She asked what exactly would this individual be doing. She asked if more information was needed or are we needing to discuss different perspectives of the board? Mr. Connell stated the facilitator would be the person to keep everyone on track and focused on the goals that we establish. Vice Chair McDaniel stated he tends to agree too, also to start out with a facilitator, they could give us a good head start and he said if we feel like it later then go with a consultant.

Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck gave an overview of October Operating Statistics. In October on fixed routes we provide 197,902 trips he stated that is a 122% increase over 2020, we are still down year to date by around 17%. He said BT Access provided 2345 trips that is up 52% by this time in 2020.

Controller Browning gave an overview of the October financial report as included in the Board Packets.

Human Resource Administrator/Marketing Director Brenda Underwood gave an overview of the October Personnel Report. Brenda stated we still need 9 fixed route bus drivers. She noted we have hired a mechanic and we hired two service attendants, and we still need one mechanic and one service attendant in the garage. Brenda said they have been in discussions about creating radio ads for hiring purposes and also developing a marketing plan for radio and social media. She said we also would like to create a bus wrap that would reach out to everyone with all the hiring information. Mr. Connell noted that Stuff-A-Bus will be coming up and we will be doing live remotes and at that time we will be mentioning on the radio that we are hiring. Brenda stated that we will have a Bloomington Public Transit day this year at Stuff-A-Bus where BPC employees will work at the event for the whole day. She said we also have implemented an online account through Amazon where people can go to the site and purchase items for Stuff-A-Bus and the items purchased are sent directly to our Bloomington Public Transit location and then will be distributed to the bus. She noted that she created this feature for people that wanted to donate but did not want to get out because of Covid-19. Brenda stated this year we will be giving all of our donations to The Department of Child Services.

CLAIMS

The claims for November 16, 2021 were presented for approval by Board member Hartman and seconded by Secretary McLary. The claims were approved with Vice Chair McDaniel voting no.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andrew Coomer questioned if we have come up with a plan on how to roll out the new route maps, what buses will change and what dates? Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck stated it will be announced late summer of 2022. Andrew asked how the new Electric buses are performing. General Manager John Connell noted that one of the buses continues to give us problems and that we have a representative scheduled to be here on Monday to take a look at it.

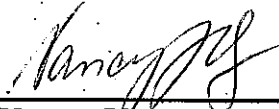
COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Hartman reported that per previous discussions about evaluations and getting information, she did contact most of the staff and she wanted to report even though General Manager John Connell has only been in his job for six weeks he is getting pretty high marks. Board Member Horn asked for a calendar draft for next year of the monthly meeting. General Manager John Connell stated that is on his agenda to prepare.

ADJOURNMENT

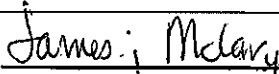
APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Nancy Obermeyer, Chair
Board of Directors BPTC

11-18-21



James J. McLary, Secretary
Board of Directors BPTC

11-18-21