

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION (BPTC) March 15, 2022 5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Chair McLary 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/86388205319?pwd=YIVBSTVQa0JjUC8wRU82ZnUrQ095Zz09>

Meeting ID: 863 8820 5319

Passcode: 454337

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Meeting ID: 889 2013 0363

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ROLL CALL

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

Members of the Public: No members of the public present.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Connell stated that FlixBus is requesting use of the BT Terminal for passenger service. He noted unlike the agreement with Miller transportation, the agreement with FlixBus would be limited to allowing ~~for use of the BT terminal only, no ticket sales or other functions.~~ FlixBus would provide one trip per day from Bloomington to Chicago. Mr. Connell noted there is one bay available at the terminal to accommodate their bus. After months of negotiations with FlixBus, we have settled on an annual fee of \$15,000. Staff recommends proceeding with developing a contract.

Mr. Connell stated if there are no objections from the Board, he will proceed with requesting FTA approval and will have a contract prepared for the board's review and consideration at the April 19, 2022, meeting. There were no objections and Mr. Connell noted he will proceed accordingly.

Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck stated much has changed since we completed our Route Optimization Study in early 2020, and we have been revisiting the recommendations for service changes to determine their relevance in today's environment. He noted at a time when BT is shorthanded, the principles of efficiency and reliability that guided the project may take on a new importance. Mr. Huneck noted among those changes are.

- Routes should operate along a direct path
- Routes should operate at regular intervals
- Service should be well coordinated

Mr. Connell said we do not have the capacity to implement service changes at the levels originally proposed, which included a slight increase in annual revenue hours. Mr. Huneck outlined a set of key recommendations pulled from the Study and adjusted at reduced levels.

Combine Routes 1 South and 7 Express: Route 7

Mr. Connell said the combination of routes 1 South and 7 Express into a single Route-Route 7-is designed to reduce coverage overlap and improve the consistency of service throughout the day and year.

Combine Routes 3 East, 8 Local, 9/9 Limited, 10 Hospital: Route 90

Route 90 would combine all of our current eastside routes into a single high-frequency, bi-directional loop route. Its implementation would allow us to eliminate the historically underperforming Route 8 and the temporary Route 10 with minimal disruption for riders.

Reduce Evening Hours

Evening ridership has dropped more than 50 percent from pre-pandemic levels to around 5 passengers/hour on most routes. Reducing evening hours past 9:00 pm would allow us to redirect service to times of day that serve more riders. BT proposes to fill in the service gap through partnerships with Uber/Lyft in a pilot program similar to that proposed for the replacement of Route 8 in 2021.

Standardize Break Schedules

A standardized break schedule would improve consistency and reliability for both riders and administrators.

Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck gave an overview of the detailed plans for implementation of all the aforementioned changes. Zac noted he wanted to get the plan put out so we can get feedback from the public. He said there are public hearings tentative set for the end of March or the first of April. He said hopefully he will have feedback from the public for the next Board Meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes for the February 15, 2022, meeting were presented for approval by Secretary Obermeyer and seconded by Board Member Horn. The minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

Board Member Hartman made a motion to approve Resolution 22-05: a resolution amending the Capital Asset Policy and Capitalization Thresholds. Secretary Obermeyer seconded it. The board approved unanimously.

Board Member Hartman made a motion to approve the 2021 Financial Statements, Vice Chair McDaniel seconded it. Controller Browning stated, this is the audit packet that goes to the auditors, and they will audit off this. Controller Browning noted that approval from the Board is needed prior to submitting the documents to the State Board of Accounts for the Audit. The Board approved unanimously.

MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

General Manager Connell gave an update on the Strategic Plan, he noted that we had over 18 vendors request proposals. He said we have a pre-proposal conference scheduled for two-oclock tomorrow. Mr. Connell noted that he and Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck will be fielding that event. He said we are still on schedule and cautiously optimistic that we will stay on the aggressive timeline. Mr. Connell noted that included in the board packet is the email he received from Pat Martin committing the \$33000 from The MPO towards the study.

Mr. Connell stated RATP Dev set up the first meeting for the technology assessment. He said the technology assessment project got off to a great start on February 17th, 2022. The kickoff meeting was attended by BT Staff, RATP Dev representatives, and a representative from the City's IT Team. Board subcommittee members, Doug Horn and James McLary also participated. Mr. Connell noted the contractor, NMomentum will be onsite at the end of this month to continue with the project. Included in the Board packet is a tentative schedule. Chair McLary stated that he was very impressed with the group and how well the meeting went. Mr. Connell

stated he was very encouraged that Mike, the City representative was very open and honest and willing to work with us. Chair McLary said he thought the company was good at identifying all the different pieces, and how they all need to be integrated. Mr. Connell stated he and Zac are going to be having meetings with IU Campus Bus every two or three weeks to talk about issues in general, including new technologies and what makes sense and to maybe partner on some of these projects.

~~Mr. Connell stated the Alternative Fuel and Infrastructure Study, the modeling is almost complete, their working on the hydrogen component. Mr. Connell said he and Planning and Special Projects Manager, Zac Huneck went to Champaign Urbana to tour the hydrogen fuel cell fueling station. Mr. Connell gave an overview of the presentation that Champaign Urbana shared with them.~~

Mr. Connell stated, we continue to have issues with the electric buses. He said last week, Bus 2189 went out of service. He noted Cummins will be onsite this week to replace the electric drive motor. He said Bus 2190 has remained in service bus has experienced some issues with the auxiliary heater.

Mr. Connell stated he did not think now is the time to go and look for a long term purchase for fuel. He said he will keep an eye on the fuel prices and keep the Board advised of the changing conditions.

Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck gave an overview of the February operating statistics. Zac noted fixed route provided 170,221 trips for February 2022, and that is up 156% over February 2021. He said BT Access provided 1656 trips for February 2022, and that is up 35% from February 2021. Zac said preventable accidents are down significantly. Chair McLary said he noticed BT Access has had two accidents. They both were non-preventable. Board Member Horn questioned how the training sessions went. Mr. Connell said they wrapped up Sunday. He said the focus of the training was the safety and customer service. Mr. Connell stated that he felt it was important for the drivers to hear what the new levels of expectations are from him. He stated that we increased the wages significantly to attract professional operators, and with that comes expectations, our preventable accident rate was not acceptable. He said we were up 553% from last year. He stated he wants to put everyone in a position to succeed. He noted overall he thinks the training was well received. Mr. Connell said we still want to get all the BT Access drivers and the mechanics in training in the future. He noted it will be an annual process moving forward. Starting in August, the beginning of the school year he would like to do something every year on different topics.

Controller Browning gave an overview of the February financial report as included in the Board packet.

Human Resource Administrator/marketing Director- Brenda Underwood stated we have just now gotten our recruiting campaign off the ground and that includes our social media advertising and our radio advertising. Brenda said our goal is for everyone that we hire, gets a class B CDL so

we can cross train. She said we will not cross-train everyone, just those that are interested. If BT Access is short that allows us to pull from our fixed route crew. The B is a higher CDL than the C, and this will allow us to have a bigger group to pull from. Brenda stated that she and General Manager Connell visited the Excel Center, their students earn a high school diploma from there. Brenda said they went there because a Class B CDL is now on their certification list. Brenda noted they have students there that are interested in that program. Brenda said they will prep them and they will get their permit through the Excel Center then they could transition over to Bloomington Transit. Brenda said if they are eligible we would hire them and put them in our program. Board Member Hartman asked if the Excel Center was open to us making presentations to students and letting them know what we are offering. Brenda said yes they are working all of that out now. Brenda said we are going to be doing some lunch and learns with them in the future. General Manager Connell said we will be taking a bus in hopes of drawing some interest..

Board Member Horn stated that he attended the March 11, 2022 meeting of the Bloomington-Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee. Mr. Horn gave an overview of some of the concerns. He said regarding traffic issues on the East side of Bloomington including SR45 and SR46, the Monroe County Commissioners sent a detailed letter to INDOT Commissioner, requesting various studies including traffic volume, traffic control device, traffic access and impact, and travel-demand forecast modeling particular to 5 specific sections of the corridor as well as series of impact questions paralleling the requested studies. He said MPO staff filed an online request for a similar review on 1/25/2020 through INDOT's general customer service portal. Neither correspondence has received a response.

Mr. Horn stated that a draft update of the Monroe County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan was presented to MPO staff. Mr. Horn gave an overview of what the goals are and the timeline for the project. Mr. Horn gave an overview of the draft that the MPO Staff presented of Fiscal Year 2023-2024, Unified Planning Work Program..

CLAIMS

The claims for March 15, 2022 were presented for approval by Secretary Obermeyer and seconded by Vice Chair McDaniel. The claims were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

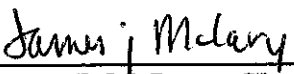
There were no comments from the Public.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair McDaniel stated, concerning the next Board meeting on April 19, 2022 that he may be in Tulsa or on his way back. He said he may not be able to attend. He said he will let General Manager Connell know. Board Member Hartman stated she will be out of town for the May 17, 2022 Board meeting, she said she might be able to zoom in. Board Member Hartman stated she recalls there are different Board members on different subcommittees. She noted she personally has not done anything even though she is on two committees, she said she does not want to appear disinterested or not doing her share. Mr. Connell said once the WSP modeling is finished and they are going to come and do the tour, we will be sending out invites. Mr. Connell stated we've got so many projects going in so many different directions. Mr. Connell assured Board member Hartman her time will come.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:



James J. McLary, Chair
Board of Directors BPTC

4-19-22

ATTEST:



Nancy Obermeyer, Secretary
Board of Directors BPTC

4-19-22