

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING - BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION (BPTC) May 17, 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/83170384733?pwd=WU9sNmVuMmVwTEZlZWktSIF0Y0ljdz09>

Meeting ID: 83170384733

Passcode: 641547

**One Tap Mobile**

+13017158592,,88920130363#,,, \*487741# US (Washington DC)

+116465588656,,88920130363#,,, \*487741# US (New York)

**Dial By Your Location**

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 9000 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 820 1717 9984

Passcode: 752909

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members and staff present: Chair James McLary, Secretary Nancy Obermeyer, Board Member Doug Horn and Vice Chair Kent McDaniel. 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: Dave Askins, B Square Beacon and Scott Farrell.

The following additional persons were also present via Zoom. Andrew Coomer, Sam Dixon and Customer Service Manager/BT Access Manager Eli McCormick

## **OLD BUSINESS**

General Manager Connell stated The FTA has granted preliminary approval of FlixBus use of the Bloomington Transit Terminal for passenger service. The final contract has been reviewed by city legal. The contract requires FlixBus to pay \$15,000 on a calendar year basis and \$60 per each departures in excess of two.

Board Member Horn made a motion to approve Resolution 22-06; a resolution approving a contract with FLIXBUS for use of the Downtown Transfer Facility. Secretary Obermeyer seconded it. The Board approved unanimously.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes for the April 19, 2022 meeting were presented for approval by Secretary Obermeyer and seconded by Vice Chair McDaniel. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS**

General Manager Connell stated the evaluation committee consisting of himself, BPTC Board Chair, James McLary, Vice Chair McDaniel, and Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck reviewed and evaluated proposals received from RLS Associates Inc., and Foursquare ITP for the Strategic Plan Development Services. He said the committee scored the proposals and determined Foursquare ITP was the best and most advantageous firm for the BPTC to use for this project. Mr. Connell noted the selection committee held a meeting with Foursquare on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the project priorities and to request an updated detailed budget. Mr. Connell said he emailed the Board the revised detailed budget. Mr. Connell stated, Foursquare ITP came under budget with an amount of \$99,934.00.

Secretary Obermeyer made a motion to approve Resolution 22-10; a resolution approving the General Manager to negotiate a contract not to exceed \$100,000, with Foursquare ITP for Strategic Plan Development Services. Board Member Horn seconded it. The Board approved unanimously.

General Manager Connell stated the deadline for the discretionary FTA 5339 grant applications is May 31, 2022. He said Staff is recommending applying for \$7,040,000 in federal funds for the purchase of eight Battery Electric Buses. Mr. Connell said Resolution 22-11 commits BPTC to provide to local match of \$1,760,000. He said the local funds will come from BPTC reserves and reimbursed with LIT funding from the city.

Board Member Horn made a motion to approve Resolution 22-11; a resolution authorizing an application for FY2022 FTA5539 (c) funds for eight battery electric buses for service expansion. Secretary Obermeyer seconded it. The Board approved unanimously.

General Manager Connell stated that the City Council approved a large development known as the Verve, located at 1820 N. Walnut Street, it will include several hundred units. He said the development is expected to have many IU students living there once it opens in August 2022. Mr. Connell noted one of the conditions in the City Council's approval of the development was that the development contract with BPTC to provide general public bus service to/from the development to the IU Campus. He said following the Council approval, a draft agreement with the developer was negotiated. After lengthy discussion regarding the length of the term of the agreement, we have settled on a three year agreement. Mr. Connell said the primary terms of the agreement are as follows:

CDG shall pay to BPTC for said bus transportation services a sum equal to:

\$13,981.25 on August 31, 2022	\$13,981.25 on January 31, 2023
\$13,981.25 on September 30, 2022	\$13,981.25 on February 28, 2023
\$13,981.25 on October 31, 2022	\$13,981.25 on March 31, 2023
\$13,981.25 on November 30, 2022	\$13,981.25 on April 30, 2023
\$13,981.25 on December 31, 2022	\$13,981.25 on May 31, 2023

Mr. Connell stated the hourly rate of compensation payable by CDG to BPTC for the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) years of this agreement shall be \$77.59 per hour and \$79.92 per hour, respectively.

Secretary Obermeyer made a motion to approve Resolution 22-12; a resolution approving an agreement between BPTC and Bloomington IN Properties I, LLC, for transit services. Vice Chair McDaniel seconded it. The Board approved unanimously.

## **MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

General Manager Connell stated the RATP Dev technology assessment study has been completed. Mr. Connell said he tried to arrange the first presentation for tonight's meeting. He said it will be in June now. He said a couple of the key players were out of the country and could not make it for the presentation. Chair McLary questioned if Mr. Connell could give a brief overview of the study. Mr. Connell stated he thinks we have a lot of work ahead of us. He said technology wise we are maybe 10 years behind of where he would like to see us. Mr. Connell said he will go over the results at the June Board Meeting.

Mr. Connell stated the final report for alternative fuel should be done by the end of June. He said the presentation on the results will be in July.

Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck gave an overview of the proposed service changes. Mr. Huneck stated fixed route changes consists of four major components, merging of four east side routes. He said route 9 is one of our most productive routes and we need to make sure any changes made do not disrupt that route. He noted that route seven better represents what we are trying to do with the route optimization study.

Mr. Connell stated he was hoping for a June 6<sup>th</sup> launch date for Micro-Transit. He said we are still providing evening service. Mr. Connell noted the idea behind launching Micro-Transit, using Uber and Lyft was to reduce evening hours to give the drivers a break and be able to use PTO time. He said we are seeing little ridership in the evening hours. Mr. Connell noted an unexpected delay in the project is the legal review of the contracts. Mr. Connell said hopefully soon we will have an agreement that all parties can agree upon. He said he is hoping the latest to get everything resolved is the last week of June.

Planning and Special Projects Manager Zac Huneck stated that April 2022 fixed route provided 177,476 trips. It is up 110% from April 2021. He said BT Access provided 1961 trips for the month of April, 2022. It is up 7% from April 2021.

Controller Browning gave an overview of the April Financial Report, as included in the Board Packet.

Human Resource Administrator/Marketing Director Brenda Underwood stated we did not have any new hires in April and we lost two employees. She said she is on target working with 5 applicants and getting them on board in June. Brenda said we do have our ad running on four different radio stations. Brenda noted she has been working with New Hope and hoping to network with them to get applicants. She said the Excel Center has a new CDL certification program and she is networking with them and hoping to participate in some lunch and learns with their students. She said The Excel Center helps students to get their CDL permit then they turn them over to us for training. General Manager Connell said that Brenda has spent a couple of her weekends doing outreach activities. He said it is greatly appreciated.

Brenda stated the City Parks has their program, which I gave all the Board Members a copy. This is for their Kids City Program, they are requesting summer fun passes. Brenda said she put the cost on the attached sheet of the program she gave the Board Members. She said in return BTPC gets discount rates to Twin Lakes and we have a few employees already utilizing the program.

Secretary Obermeyer made a motion to approve the Summer Fun Passes, Vice Chair McDaniel seconded it. The board approved unanimously.

Board Member Horn stated he attended the May 13, 2022 meeting of the Bloomington Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee. He said the highlight of the meeting was the adoption of The 2022 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Horn noted the final interaction of the Program includes an additional \$17,000.00 for Bloomington Transit specific to the upcoming Strategic Plan, bringing total MPO support to \$50,000.00 for that project.

## **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

The Claims for April 19, 2022 were presented for approval by Vice Chair McDaniel and seconded by Secretary Obermeyer. The claims were approved unanimously.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Farrell stated he lives on the East side, he works on the North side and on the West side, he said he is visually disabled and he can't drive anymore. He said he is very nervous about Micro Transit. He questioned how is he supposed to be confident in any new technology, he said he does use Uber and Lyft. He noted just because the app is on his phone does not mean Uber or Lyft will have a driver available. He questioned how will this work? General Manager Connell said both companies have assured us once the program is up and running they offer incentives to the drivers. Mr. Connell stated this program is to offer a safety net to individuals who will be impacted negatively from the service reduction. Mr. Connell said when we don't have enough drivers we have to make some tough decisions. He said one of the tough decision was to eliminate the service, but he knew there would be people potentially stranded and we did not want that to happen. Mr. Connell said he thought Micro Transit would be worth a try. Chair McLary said this is a trial and that's why we need feedback. Mr. Connell reiterated getting stranded is a big concern and that's why the drivers will be given incentives. Mr. Connell said there is no guarantees and he appreciates Scott's concerns and he shares some of the same concerns too. Mr. Connell said we are in a position that something had to give with the shortage of drivers. Mr. Connell said if we see this program is not working then we will adjust accordingly. Mr. Connell noted that the driver shortage is a real crisis across the country.

Andrew Coomer asked if BPTC will be replacing all the buses with Battery Electric Buses or just purchasing eight buses with the grant? General Manager Connell said our alternative fuel study hasn't been completed. He said for example if they say the recommendation is for hydrogen fuel cell and that's the direction we are going to follow. He said we are looking at three to five year minimum, and between now and then we need buses and the money available is being targeted for battery electric buses. He said we have two now that are working well and we have the capacity to continue down that route, and that's why we are making the decision pursue it. Mr. Connell said if the direction of the alternative fuel program is going to a different type of application, it is still going to be years away before we make the transition. Chair McLary stated the federal government is funding the electric hybrid buses right now. He said that's where the money is and that's one of the reason we are buying them. Mr. Connell said the strongest potential of securing that funding is by pursuing battery electric buses.

## COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There were no comments from the Board Members.

## ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

James J. McLary 06-21-22  
James J. McLary, Chair  
Board of Directors BPTC

Nancy Obermeyer 06-21-22  
Nancy Obermeyer, Secretary  
Board of Directors BPTC