



Connect Transit will livestream the Board of Trustees meetings when a YouTube link is provided on the agenda. Anyone who attends the meeting or addresses a public meeting during Public Comment time will be heard and may be seen on the livestream. Any audio and video captured will be in the recording.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not attend the meeting.

## AGENDA

### Connect Transit Board of Trustees, Regular Session

March 26, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Connect Transit Board Room, 351 Wylie Drive, Normal, IL 61761

YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/llsWKGpVY3I?feature=share>

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
  - a. Attendance by Other Means/Virtual – Roll Call Vote
- C. Pledge of Allegiance and Mission Statement
- D. Public Comments
- E. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Regular Session Minutes for February 27, 2024
  - b. Approval of Financial Information for February 2024
  - c. Monthly Statistical Reports for February 2024
  - d. Cardinal Infrastructure Federal Report
  - e. Cornerstone – Illinois Weekly Update
- F. Committee Reports
- G. New Business
  - a. FY23 Audit Results – Informational
  - b. FLEX/Fixed Route Comparison – Informational
  - c. Recommendation for Cash Farm Lease – Roll Call Vote
  - d. Recommendation for Zero-Fare on Earth Day – Roll Call Vote
  - e. Recommendation for Clarification of By-Laws Pertaining to Executive Session Attendance by Other Means – Roll Call Vote
  - f. Draft Strategic Plan – Informational
  - g. Recommendation to Approve FY25 Budget – Roll Call Vote
- H. Chairman’s Report
- I. General Manager’s Report
- J. Trustee Comments
- K. Executive Session – n/a
- L. Adjournment

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#### Mission:

Connect Transit provides safe, reliable transportation and access to opportunity to strengthen and enrich individual lives, our community, the economy, and the environment.





# February 2024 Financial Reports



351 Wylie Drive, Normal, IL 61761



309-828-9833

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**Connect Transit  
Cash Disbursement Report  
February 2024**

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
1st Ayd Corporation	00058483	23-Feb-24	\$960.62	Cleaning Supplies
A.T.U. - C.O.P.E.	00058434	09-Feb-24	\$342.35	Payroll Deduction
ABC Bus Companies	00058484	23-Feb-24	\$1,882.14	Bus Parts
Advance Auto Parts	00058436	09-Feb-24	\$1,253.47	Maintenance Supplies
Advance Auto Parts	00058485	23-Feb-24	\$2,235.69	Maintenance Supplies
Airgas USA, LLC	00058486	23-Feb-24	\$365.10	Welding Supplies
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00058437	09-Feb-24	\$7,821.20	Payroll Deduction
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00058487	23-Feb-24	\$350.00	Payroll Deduction
Amazon Capital Service	00058438	09-Feb-24	\$72.43	Building Maintenance, Employee Recognition, & Office Supplies
Amazon Capital Service	00058488	23-Feb-24	\$403.64	Bus Parts, Property Damage, & Support Vehicles
Ancel Glink, P.C.	00058489	23-Feb-24	\$1,046.38	Legal Service
Angelo Vardinakis	00058490	23-Feb-24	\$353.07	Tool Reimbursement
Aramark Uniform Services	00058439	09-Feb-24	\$673.03	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Aramark Uniform Services	00058491	23-Feb-24	\$745.39	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Awards Network	00058492	23-Feb-24	\$1,125.00	Employee Recognition
Best One of Central IL	00058493	23-Feb-24	\$473.00	Outside Repair
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois	00058494	23-Feb-24	\$151,266.75	Insurance
Blue Springs, Inc	00058495	23-Feb-24	\$225.00	Portable Restrooms
Bonfire Interactive, Ltd.	00058496	23-Feb-24	\$10,447.50	Software
Bridgestone Americas	00058497	23-Feb-24	\$3,782.58	Tires
Brittany Morgan	00058440	09-Feb-24	\$141.38	Uniform Reimbursement
Cardinal Infrastructure, LLC	00058498	23-Feb-24	\$6,000.00	Consulting
Central Illinois Trucks Inc.	00058441	09-Feb-24	\$5,620.43	Bus Parts
Central Illinois Trucks Inc.	00058499	23-Feb-24	\$5,683.63	Bus Parts
Central States Bus Sales, Inc	00058442	09-Feb-24	\$82.08	Bus Parts
Checkr, Inc.	00058443	09-Feb-24	\$253.47	New Hire Background Checks
ChemStation of Indiana	00058444	09-Feb-24	\$448.75	Garage Supplies
CIRBN, LLC	00058500	23-Feb-24	\$147.13	Internet
City of Bloomington(Water)	00058445	09-Feb-24	\$828.55	Utilities
City of Bloomington(Water)	00058501	23-Feb-24	\$137.97	Utilities
Clark Baird Smith, LLP	00058502	23-Feb-24	\$2,447.50	Legal Service
Clean Exhaust Specialist	00058446	09-Feb-24	\$833.00	Bus Parts
Column Software PBC	00058503	23-Feb-24	\$183.33	Printed Materials
Commerce	ACH	01-Feb-24	\$353.28	Interest Payment
Concur Technologies, Inc	00058447	09-Feb-24	\$378.75	Software
Corn Belt Energy Corp.	00058504	23-Feb-24	\$6,969.16	Utilities
Cornerstone Government Affairs	00058448	09-Feb-24	\$3,958.33	Consulting
Cybernautic	00058505	23-Feb-24	\$3,960.00	Website
David Eckardt	00058506	23-Feb-24	\$76.10	Uniform Reimbursement
Discount Tire	00058449	09-Feb-24	\$898.90	Tires
Discount Tire	00058507	23-Feb-24	\$492.90	Tires
Don Owen Tire Service, Inc.	00058450	09-Feb-24	\$197.53	Bus Parts
Don Owen Tire Service, Inc.	00058508	23-Feb-24	\$388.35	Bus Parts
Dovetail, Inc.	00058509	23-Feb-24	\$42,742.00	Consulting
Drago Vantage, LLC	00058451	09-Feb-24	\$5,000.00	Consulting
Eagle Automotive	00058452	09-Feb-24	\$1,221.69	Bus Parts
Eagle Automotive	00058510	23-Feb-24	\$307.80	Bus Parts
East Penn Manufacturing Co.	00058511	23-Feb-24	\$2,845.08	Bus Parts
Ecolane USA, Inc.	00058512	23-Feb-24	\$29,879.33	Software Licensing
Fastenal Company	00058513	23-Feb-24	\$9.78	Bus Parts
Fasteners Etc.	00058453	09-Feb-24	\$782.17	Maintenance Supplies
Fasteners Etc.	00058514	23-Feb-24	\$920.15	Maintenance Supplies
Galls, LLC	00058454	09-Feb-24	\$680.01	Admin & Driver's Uniforms & Trustees Expense
Galls, LLC	00058515	23-Feb-24	\$811.55	Admin & Driver's Uniforms & Trustees Expense
Gary Bachman	00058516	23-Feb-24	\$38.06	Uniform Reimbursement
Genfare, LLC	ACH	16-Feb-24	\$15.00	Pass Refund
Genfare, LLC	00058517	23-Feb-24	\$5,068.00	Software and Hardware



## Connect Transit Cash Disbursement Report February 2024

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
Gerber Collision	00058455	09-Feb-24	\$38,303.59	Outside Repair
Getz Fire Equipment	00058518	23-Feb-24	\$428.00	Building Maintenance
Gillig LLC	00058519	23-Feb-24	\$1,860.50	Bus Parts
Global Industrial	00058456	09-Feb-24	\$126.70	Garage Supplies
Great Plains Media	00058457	09-Feb-24	\$1,280.00	Radio Advertising
Hicks Gas Bloomington LLC	00058520	23-Feb-24	\$820.74	LP Gas
HOI Vending	00058521	23-Feb-24	\$203.00	Office Supplies
Illinois Department of Revenue	ACH	09-Feb-24	\$16,396.71	Illinois Tax
Illinois Department of Revenue	ACH	23-Feb-24	\$16,635.38	Illinois Tax
Illinois Department of Revenue	ACH	26-Feb-24	\$20.01	Illinois Tax
Illinois Dept of Revenue Wage Levy Unit	00058458	09-Feb-24	\$54.27	Payroll Deduction
Illinois Dept of Revenue Wage Levy Unit	00058522	23-Feb-24	\$81.80	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement Unit	ACH	08-Feb-24	\$1,951.42	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement Unit	ACH	22-Feb-24	\$1,556.61	Payroll Deduction
JX Truck Center - Bloomington	00058523	23-Feb-24	\$4,154.13	Bus Parts
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00058459	09-Feb-24	\$19,022.63	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00058524	23-Feb-24	\$45,206.69	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Kirk's Automotive, Inc	00058460	09-Feb-24	\$1,792.00	Bus Parts
Lewis, Yockey & Brown, Inc	00058461	09-Feb-24	\$150.00	Consulting
McAnd Promotions	00058462	09-Feb-24	\$295.00	Advertising
Menards	00058525	23-Feb-24	\$125.53	Building Maintenance, Cleaning, Materials & Supplies
Michelin North America, Inc	00058463	09-Feb-24	\$49.36	Tires
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00058464	09-Feb-24	\$105.34	Bus Parts
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00058526	23-Feb-24	\$1,157.97	Bus Parts
Mildred Williams	00058527	23-Feb-24	\$21.73	Uniform Reimbursement
Miller Janitor Supply	00058465	09-Feb-24	\$503.70	Maintenance Supplies
Miller Janitor Supply	00058528	23-Feb-24	\$453.30	Maintenance Supplies
Missionsquare	ACH	08-Feb-24	\$36,675.86	Retirement
Missionsquare	ACH	22-Feb-22	\$37,361.22	Retirement
Morris Avenue Garage	00058466	09-Feb-24	\$80.00	Vehicle Inspection
Morris Avenue Garage	00058529	23-Feb-24	\$160.00	Vehicle Inspection
Mutual of Omaha	00058530	23-Feb-24	\$19,466.41	Life, AD&D, STD & LTD
Mutual Wheel	00058467	09-Feb-24	\$55.04	Bus Parts
Napa Auto Parts	00058468	09-Feb-24	\$35.99	Bus Parts
Napa Auto Parts	00058531	23-Feb-24	\$181.30	Bus Parts
Nicor Gas	00058469	09-Feb-24	\$8,080.33	Utilities
Oberlander Alarm Systems, Inc,	00058532	23-Feb-24	\$230.00	Security Alarm Service Fee
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	00058533	23-Feb-24	\$728.37	Employee Recognition & Office Supplies
OSF Medical Group - Occupational Health	00058534	23-Feb-24	\$525.00	Drug Testing
Payroll	ACH	08-Feb-24	\$269,601.59	
Payroll	ACH	22-Feb-24	\$283,158.52	
Piercy Auto Body	00058535	23-Feb-24	\$3,430.14	Outside Repair
Premier Print Group	00058536	23-Feb-24	\$3,833.00	Printing
Project Oz	00058537	23-Feb-24	\$206.28	Safety & Training
Reinhart Landscaping & Snow	00058470	09-Feb-24	\$5,260.00	Snow Removal
Republic Services # 368	00058471	09-Feb-24	\$715.90	Garbage Disposal
Sam Leman Chrysler Dodge Jeep	00058472	09-Feb-24	\$328.00	Bus Parts
Sam Leman Chrysler Dodge Jeep	00058538	23-Feb-24	\$656.00	Bus Parts
Southtown Wrecker Service, Inc.,	00058473	09-Feb-24	\$1,155.00	Towing
Southtown Wrecker Service, Inc.,	00058539	23-Feb-24	\$660.00	Towing
Stratus Networks	00058474	09-Feb-24	\$3,312.48	Internet
SumnerOne, Inc.	00058475	09-Feb-24	\$770.10	Copier Lease
Sun Loan- Bloomington - IL	00058540	23-Feb-24	\$169.45	Payroll Deduction
Sunbelt Rentals	00058541	23-Feb-24	\$587.17	Machine Rentals
Supreme Radio Communications, Inc	00058542	23-Feb-24	\$566.91	Radio Maintenance
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00058476	09-Feb-24	\$7,499.32	Bus Parts
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00058543	23-Feb-24	\$3,215.49	Bus Parts
Thomas O'Shea	00058544	23-Feb-24	\$36.82	Uniform Reimbursement



**Connect Transit**  
**Cash Disbursement Report**  
**February 2024**

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
Town of Normal	00058477	09-Feb-24	\$680.42	Utilites
TRAVELERS	00058545	23-Feb-24	\$1,716.00	Property Damage
Treasurer, State of IL	00058433	07-Feb-24	\$50,000.00	Consulting
Uline	00058478	09-Feb-24	\$503.07	Office Supplies
Uline	00058546	23-Feb-24	\$85.82	Office Supplies
United States Treasury	ACH	12-Feb-24	\$89,896.28	Federal Tax Payment
United States Treasury	ACH	27-Feb-24	\$92,385.30	Federal Tax Payment
UPS	00058479	09-Feb-24	\$63.68	Shipping
Via Mobility, LLC	00058547	23-Feb-24	\$2,400.00	Consulting
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	(\$86.81)	Cash Back Rebate
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$213.06	Mechanics Uniforms
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$119.00	Pre-Employment Physical
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$509.72	Advertising- Employment
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$407.00	Office Supplies - Equipment
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$546.07	Office Supplies
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$1,417.44	Software Licensing
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$965.34	Dues & Subscriptions
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$304.23	Trustee Expense
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$3,637.79	Travel & Meetings
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$80.34	Employee Recognition
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$347.69	Safety & Training
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058482	20-Feb-24	\$133.35	Miscellaneous Expense
VSP of Illinois, NFP	00058548	23-Feb-24	\$1,093.00	Vision Insurance
Wesley Radford	00058480	09-Feb-24	\$61.98	Uniform Reimbursement
Wherry Machine and Welding, Inc	00058549	23-Feb-24	\$1,575.00	Outside Repair
Widmer Interiors	00058481	09-Feb-24	\$1,043.33	Office Equipment
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,408,221.38</b>	

# Bloomington Normal Public Transit Balance Sheet

Division: 99 Board Reports

As of: 2/29/2024

Fiscal Year: 2024 Period: 8 Feb-2024

## Assets

### Current Assets

Checking and Savings	\$5,176,750.63
Accounts Receivable	\$5,567,884.39
Inventory Asset - Fuel	\$99,852.85
Inventory Asset - Parts	\$430,344.21
Inventory Asset - Tires	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	\$500,692.00

**Total Current Assets** \$11,775,524.08

Fixed Assets \$30,447,052.29

**Total Assets** \$42,222,576.37

## Liabilities & Equity

### Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$204,921.14
Payroll Liabilities	\$1,380,364.36
Contracts	\$0.00
Due to Illinois Funds Account	\$0.00
Deferred Revenue	\$212,990.19
Deficit Funding Advance	\$0.00

**Total Liabilities** \$1,798,275.69

### EQUITY

Fixed Asset Equity	\$12,483,532.77
Unreserved Fund Equity	\$6,750,412.62
Underground Petroleum Storage	\$20,000.00

**Total Equity** \$19,253,945.39

Retained Earnings \$21,170,355.29

**Total Liabilities & Equity** \$42,222,576.37

# Bloomington Normal Public Transit Income Statement With Approved Budget

From Fiscal Year: 2024	From Period 8	Division: 98 Operating Profit/Loss	As of: 2/29/2024		
Thru Fiscal Year: 2024	Thru Period 8			Jul-2023	Approved Budget
				Feb-2024	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>					
Passenger Fares	\$43,891.53	8.09%	\$356,488.93	65.71%	\$542,500.00
ISU Contract Fare	\$48,670.68	8.33%	\$389,365.44	66.67%	\$584,048.00
Other Contract Fares	\$23,305.43	11.65%	\$172,575.82	86.29%	\$200,000.00
Advertising Revenue	\$9,775.00	8.33%	\$83,066.66	70.82%	\$117,300.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,619.32	27.57%	\$29,996.74	315.76%	\$9,500.00
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$128,261.96</b>	<b>8.83%</b>	<b>\$1,031,493.59</b>	<b>70.97%</b>	<b>\$1,453,348.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Operators Wages	\$629,048.04	7.90%	\$5,330,887.37	66.91%	\$7,967,560.00
Maintenance Wages	\$111,924.01	7.11%	\$879,491.95	55.89%	\$1,573,647.00
Administration Wages	\$91,670.73	7.78%	\$779,232.12	66.16%	\$1,177,806.00
Employer Payroll Tax Expense	\$76,979.36	8.85%	\$576,187.46	66.25%	\$869,722.00
Retirement Plan	\$33,314.90	6.22%	\$265,664.31	49.57%	\$535,951.00
Group Insurance	\$170,189.83	7.61%	\$1,305,682.29	58.35%	\$2,237,512.00
Uniform Expense	\$3,353.13	5.29%	\$28,072.72	44.30%	\$63,375.00
Professional Services	\$71,880.71	32.16%	\$308,107.14	137.86%	\$223,500.00
Outside Repair-Labor	\$8,414.49	6.01%	\$36,410.57	26.01%	\$140,000.00
Contract Maintenance Services	\$13,113.95	5.59%	\$98,001.50	41.80%	\$234,476.00
Custodial Services	\$1,232.36	6.47%	\$15,601.39	81.85%	\$19,060.00
Employee Recruiting/Testing/Temp Help	\$628.72	1.40%	\$18,924.32	42.05%	\$45,000.00
Fuel	\$71,253.97	4.41%	\$713,015.88	44.12%	\$1,616,224.00
Lubricants	\$2,670.31	3.09%	\$19,641.32	22.76%	\$86,285.00
Tires	\$4,280.00	6.94%	\$29,152.61	47.26%	\$61,680.00
Bus Repair Parts	\$55,558.75	11.59%	\$385,246.01	80.37%	\$479,362.00
Other Materials & Supplies	\$5,867.03	7.07%	\$58,740.47	70.77%	\$83,000.00
Shelters/Signs/Shop Tools	\$0.00	0.00%	\$14,775.37	73.88%	\$20,000.00
Computer and Office Supplies	\$51,931.04	11.90%	\$171,198.97	39.23%	\$436,362.00
Utilities	\$22,378.14	17.35%	\$111,984.36	86.81%	\$129,000.00
Corporate Insurance	\$48,604.61	9.21%	\$378,368.77	71.70%	\$527,725.00
Dues/Subscriptions/Fees	\$1,365.34	3.06%	\$26,338.35	58.99%	\$44,650.00
Printing/Marketing/Training	\$26,353.96	7.03%	\$189,519.11	50.56%	\$374,850.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,502,013.38</b>	<b>7.93%</b>	<b>\$11,740,244.36</b>	<b>61.96%</b>	<b>\$18,946,747.00</b>
<b>Operating Assistance</b>					
Operating Deficit Before Subsidies and Grants	(\$1,373,751.42)	7.85%	(\$10,708,750.77)	61.22%	(\$17,493,399.00)
City of Bloomington Operating Assistance	\$75,833.33	0.00%	\$606,666.64	0.00%	\$0.00
Town of Normal Operating Assistance	\$49,166.66	0.00%	\$393,333.28	0.00%	\$0.00
Illinois Downstate Operating Assistance	\$939,723.00	0.00%	\$7,388,835.00	0.00%	\$0.00
FTA 5307 Operating Assistance	\$252,961.00	0.00%	\$2,003,181.00	0.00%	\$0.00
<b>Total Operating Assistance</b>	<b>\$1,317,683.99</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$10,392,015.92</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>



<b>February 2024</b>	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Month in Prior Year</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Prior Year to Date</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
<b>System Statistics:</b>						
<b>System Ridership</b>	<b>211,871</b>	<b>193,151</b>	<b>9.69%</b>	<b>1,594,864</b>	<b>1,446,534</b>	<b>10.25%</b>
Fixed Ridership	197,443	185,036	6.71%	1,480,152	1,381,103	7.17%
Mobility Ridership	9,793	8,115	20.68%	80,001	65,431	22.27%
FLEX Ridership	4,635	*	*	34,711	*	*
<b>System Service Hours</b>	<b>13,782</b>	<b>12,153</b>	<b>13.41%</b>	<b>118,722</b>	<b>101,712</b>	<b>16.72%</b>
Fixed Service Hours	8,949	8,673	3.19%	78,545	72,753	7.96%
Mobility Service Hours	3,830	3,480	10.06%	32,546	28,959	12.39%
FLEX Service Hours	1,003	*	*	7,631	*	*
<b>System Service Miles</b>	<b>168,613</b>	<b>148,061</b>	<b>13.88%</b>	<b>1,401,558</b>	<b>1,239,373</b>	<b>13.09%</b>
Fixed Service Miles	107,499	104,233	3.13%	916,617	887,742	3.25%
Mobility Service Miles	49,188	43,828	12.23%	401,234	351,631	14.11%
FLEX Service Miles	11,926	*	*	83,707	*	*
<b>System Revenue Vehicles</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>5.26%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>13.56%</b>
Fixed Revenue Vehicles	33	39	-15.38%	40	40	0.00%
Mobility Revenue Vehicles	22	18	22.22%	22	19	15.79%
FLEX Revenue Vehicles	5	*	*	5	*	*
<b>System Miles/Revenue Vehicle</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>8.19%</b>	<b>20,919</b>	<b>21,006</b>	<b>-0.42%</b>
Fixed Miles/Revenue Vehicle	3,258	2,673	21.88%	22,915	22,194	3.25%
Mobility Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,236	2,435	-8.18%	18,238	18,507	-1.45%
FLEX Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,385	*	*	16,741	*	*
<b>System Efficiencies:</b>						
<b>System Ridership/Service Hour</b>	<b>15.37</b>	<b>15.89</b>	<b>-3.28%</b>	<b>13.43</b>	<b>14.22</b>	<b>-5.54%</b>
Fixed Ridership/Revenue Hour	22.06	21.34	3.41%	18.84	18.98	-0.73%
Mobility Ridership/Revenue Hour	2.56	2.33	9.65%	2.46	2.26	8.79%
FLEX Ridership/Revenue Hour	4.62	*	*	4.55	*	*
<b>System Percent On-Time Trips</b>	<b>91.06%</b>	<b>92.25%</b>	<b>-1.29%</b>	<b>91.72%</b>	<b>93.61%</b>	<b>-2.01%</b>
Fixed Percent On-Time Trips	91%	92%	-1.09%	92%	93%	-1.91%
Mobility Percent On-Time Trips	97%	98%	-1.02%	97%	99%	-1.15%
FLEX Percent On-Time Trips	81%	*	*	84%	*	*
<b>System Subsidy/Passenger</b>	<b>\$6.82</b>	<b>\$6.38</b>	<b>6.90%</b>	<b>\$6.76</b>	<b>\$6.86</b>	<b>-1.41%</b>
Fixed Subsidy/Passenger	\$5.40	\$5.13	5.16%	\$5.54	\$5.52	0.34%
Mobility Subsidy/Passenger	\$32.02	\$34.75	-7.86%	\$26.22	\$35.15	-25.40%
FLEX Subsidy/Passenger	\$14.02	*	*	\$14.13	*	*
<b>Operator Pay Hours/Service Hour</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>-10.42%</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>-5.96%</b>
<b>Vehicle Maintenance Expense/Mile</b>	<b>\$1.13</b>	<b>\$1.14</b>	<b>-0.76%</b>	<b>\$1.07</b>	<b>\$0.99</b>	<b>7.86%</b>

## Service Performance Report Definition of Terms and Their Impact

### **SYSTEM STATISTICS**

**Ridership: Measures how many unlinked one-way trips were taken in a month.**

#### ***How is it collected?***

- Fixed Route: Counted using the Automatic Passenger Counters (APC) on each bus.
- Mobility: Counted by the number of people who reserve a ride and complete the ride captured by the scheduling software. The number is net cancellations and no-shows.
- FLEX: Counted by the number of people who book and complete a ride on FLEX captured by the scheduling software. The number is net cancellations, no-shows, and seat unavailable designations.

#### ***Why is it important?***

- This number is reported to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) annually in our National Transit Database report and is used for formula funding purposes.
- Helps the Board understand the scope of the services we provide.

**Service Hours: Measures the number of scheduled hours each of our services operates. This figure includes deadhead time from garage to the beginning or end of line, Operator report time, and hours used by maintenance for road calls.**

#### ***How is it collected?***

- Fixed Route: The APC system captures hours, however, does not capture detours, missed trips, etc. Dispatchers log detours, length of time detoured, detour miles and missed trips. Our Database Manager determines the scheduled hours per trip and per day and subtracts the hours caused by missed trips or detours.
- Mobility and FLEX: All operators log into a tablet mobile data terminal which enables the automatic vehicle location, which tracks hours and miles the vehicle is in service.

#### ***Why is it important?***

- This number is reported to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) annually in our National Transit Database report and is used for formula funding purposes.

- Helps the Board understand the scope of the services we provide.

**Service Miles: Measures the number of miles operated by each of our services in scheduled service. This figure includes deadhead time from garage to the beginning or end of line, Operator report time, and hours used by maintenance for road calls.**

***How is it collected?***

- Fixed Route: The APC system captures miles, however, does not capture detours, missed trips, etc. Dispatchers log detours, length of time detoured, detour miles and missed trips. Our Database Manager determines the scheduled miles per trip and per day and subtracts miles caused by missed trips or detours.
- Mobility and FLEX: All operators log into a tablet mobile data terminal which enables the automatic vehicle location, which tracks hours and miles the vehicle is in service.

***Why is it important?***

- This number is reported to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) annually in our National Transit Database report and is used for formula funding purposes.
- Helps the Board understand the scope of the services we provide.

**System Revenue Vehicles: The number reflects the total number of vehicles available per month for each service.**

***How is it collected?***

- Our Database Manager reviews the Fleetnet Operating Software vehicle mileage report to determine active vehicles (those that operate 50+ miles per day) available for each service.

***Why is it important?***

- Demonstrates the number of vehicles available and when shortages are evident.
- Helps the Board understand the scope of the services we provide.

**System Miles per Revenue Vehicle: The number of revenue miles per month per revenue vehicle.**

***How is it collected?***

- The number of system miles is calculated as shown above. That number is then divided by the number of revenue vehicles available for that service type.

***Why is it important?***

- Helps the Board understand the scope of the services we provide.

## **SYSTEM EFFICIENCIES**

**Ridership/Service Hour: A measure of route (for fixed route) or scheduling (for Mobility and FLEX) efficiency for each of the services we provide.**

***How is it collected?***

- Ridership is divided by service hours as indicated in the system statistics area, above.

***Why is it important?***

- This is a measure of route or service efficiency and our most valuable tool to determine effectiveness. Our goal is to have this number be as high as possible.
- **Fixed Route**: If a particular fixed route has low passenger per hour efficiency, we look at whether to modify the route to serve a street or area with higher population density or popular destination (closer to apartment, school, employer, etc.); market the service better for awareness, or replace the service with another service alternative (FLEX if the passengers per hour is less than 8).
- **Mobility**: If Mobility has low passenger per hour efficiency, we look at slack time (the time between passengers), as well as shift start and end times. We also look at how the scheduling software placed trip pick-ups and drop-offs to determine whether they could have been done more efficiently. If there is a consistent issue, we can change the parameters in the scheduling system, or work with the software provider to make improvements.
- **FLEX**: If FLEX has low passenger per hour efficiency, we look at the operator's start and end times and break periods and adjust if necessary.

**Percent On-Time Trips (OTP): The percentage of trips within +/- five minutes of the scheduled time.**

***How is it collected?***

- **Fixed Route**: The Syncromatics Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)/Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system compares arrival time to the schedule and calculates the percent of on-time trips.

- **Mobility:** The Ecolane scheduling system works with the CAD/AVL system to identify arrival times. “Arrival” is based on a pre-determined designation by the passenger of either the pick-up time, or the drop-off time at the time of scheduling the trip. Scheduling a trip for drop-off time is typically done for appointments, while scheduling for pick-up is typically when drop off time is not a factor.
- **FLEX:** When a passenger books a trip, the Via software offers an estimated pick-up and drop off time. On time performance is calculated when the vehicle arrives 5+ minutes late for either the estimated pick-up time or the estimated drop-off time. The challenge with this method is that a ride may be scheduled after the first trip is scheduled that will add time to either end, due to another pick-up in the vehicle. Our goal is maximizing the riders per trip, so avoiding those would be counterproductive. Our OTP reflects a poor experience; however, we don’t have complaints and have a 4.9 satisfaction rating.

***Why is it important?***

- On-time performance is a means to maintain customer satisfaction by offering reliable service.

**Subsidy per Passenger: A measure of efficiency, the subsidy per passenger shows how much each trip costs Connect Transit after revenue is deducted. It adds a financial aspect to the ridership per service hour calculation.**

***How is it collected?***

- Operating expenses and revenues are maintained by the financial software. Those costs are separated by service (fixed route, Mobility and FLEX). Each service’s operating expenses for the month is divided by the passenger trips per month.

***Why is it important?***

- Helps the Board understand the cost of service on a per passenger basis. Generally, more fixed route and FLEX passengers reduces the subsidy per passenger because hours are fixed for those services. More Mobility passengers increases the subsidy per passenger, because for each new passenger, more hours and more miles are needed to serve them.

**Operator pay Hours/Service Hour: This is a measure of management and work scheduling efficiency. A measure of how much time we pay for over and above our schedule. This includes:**

- Report time,
- Deadhead time (non-revenue time between garage and first stop),
- Unscheduled overtime,

- Guarantee time (Operators are guaranteed 40 hours per week per the labor agreement),
- Stand-by/Protect time (when an Operator is scheduled to cover service if someone is absent).
- Meetings and unscheduled training time.

***How is it collected?***

- The hours an employee works is put into our payroll system by Dispatchers and reviewed by our Payroll Administrator. Our Scheduler includes the scheduled service time in the scheduling system.
- Operator pay hours are divided by scheduled service hours.

***Why is it important?***

- As a measure of management and work scheduling efficiency, we try to keep this figure as low as possible without sacrificing service. That means we try to avoid overtime, guarantee time, and schedule a reasonable number of standby operators and minimize the number or time of paid meetings.

**Vehicle Maintenance Expense/Mile: This is a measure of the efficiency of maintenance pertaining to each of our services.**

***How is it collected?***

- Maintenance wages are gathered from payroll and distributed to each service by the percentage of vehicles in the fleet for the service. Parts, tires, and outside repairs by service are added to the wages for the cost of maintenance, and then divided by the miles per month operated by the service.

***Why is it important?***

- Trending shows both efficiency and cost trends in maintenance.



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## **Monthly Federal Update for Connect Transit**

*Prepared by Cardinal Infrastructure*

*Prepared March 22, 2024*

### **Congressional Update**

On March 8, Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law, the FY24 Appropriations Bill for transportation (THUD), as well as five other spending bills for the remainder of the current federal fiscal year which runs through September 30, 2024. The “minibus” appropriations bill included funding for federal transportation/transit programs.

FY24 spending levels for FTA formula dollars are locked in at the IJA authorized levels, but the CIG program only received \$3.8 billion total, about \$700 million less than IJA authorized levels. The transit community needs to educate appropriators on the subtle but important impacts of reduced CIG funding. These impacts include a reduced CIG project cost share and longer payout schedules which increase financing costs.

All FY24 requests were met but the \$700 million gap in funding meant that FTA could not make advanced payment to the remaining balances of four existing FFGAs. Those projects will continue to get payouts in future years in alignment with their FFGA payout schedule. FTA had hoped to clear out all four to make room for the next wave of projects seeking funding.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee [held a hearing](#) focused on DOT's competitive discretionary grant programs. There was some bipartisan agreement that these grants require too much expense and effort for local governments. Several of the witnesses (Florida DOT, NACO, Short Line Railroad Association, and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) and members of congress noted their preference for discretionary dollars to be reallocated to formula programs. In response, Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA), noted the vast increase in both formula and discretionary aid being provided by IJA. Evaluating opportunities for transparency, objectivity, and consistency in the grant making process, as well as expedited grant agreements to reduce costs resulting from construction inflation, could be an exercise for surface transportation reauthorization in 2026.

### **White House Update**

The [President's Budget](#) includes several policy recommendations that could impact transit agencies:

One would allow transit agencies to purchase real property outside an existing transit corridor to support transit agencies' efforts to plan for future needs. This approach is consistent with current FHWA policy and a net gain for transit agencies planning for future expansion. This was included in the Senate's FY 24 THUD bill but did not pass muster with the House and was dropped from the final bill.



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FTA is also encouraging standardized purchases of low and no emission buses. This new provision would give FTA the flexibility to incentivize standardization in the purchase of low and no emission buses by modifying the federal cost share, with a goal of more efficient and economical vehicle production costs.

Finally, FTA wants to enable FTA grant recipients to directly fund shared micromobility systems, including bicycles, scooters, and other small, lightweight wheeled conveyances, that are shared among users. By improving access to transit, shared use micromobility can reduce transportation emissions while improving equitable access to transportation with affordable and convenient first-last mile options.

If you are planning to submit earmarks and have not sent us the details, please reach out about how to craft a competitive application and get your project submitted within your member's deadlines.

### **Department of Transportation**

DOT announced more than [\\$50 million in grant awards for 34](#) technology demonstration projects across the country through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program.

DOT announced [\\$3.33 billion for 132 projects](#) through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot and Neighborhood Access and Equity discretionary grant program.

FTA's [Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance Workshop](#) will explore common challenges identified during FTA technical assistance center inquiries, audits, and Agency Safety Plan reviews. Transit agency safety department personnel, rail and bus transit operations and maintenance managers who oversee agency safety performance, and State Safety Oversight Agency managers and staff are encouraged to attend the SMS in Practice Workshop series.

The Federal Highway Administration [wants to update regulations](#) for the Highway Safety Improvement Program to align with federal equity and safety priorities. The Federal Highway Administration published a [notice of proposed rulemaking on Feb. 21](#) to update the existing Highway Safety Improvement Program regulations. The updates aim to incorporate the [Safe System Approach](#) and align with the safety and equity priorities of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy.

### **Grants**



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DOT's Build America Bureau has released a [NOFO for The Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant Program](#) which makes \$100 million available over five years to [assist public entities](#) in facilitating and evaluating public-private partnerships and exploring innovative financing and delivery opportunities for Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) eligible projects. The NOFO allocates funds for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, totaling \$57.72 million. Grants up to \$2 million are available, with the first million requiring no local match. Applications are due May 9.

[LowNo and BBF grants](#) are currently open with a deadline of April 25. If your agency is planning to apply, we are available to review applications, strategize how to create a competitive application, and assist with finding other agencies with whom you can do a joint procurement.

DOT's [Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program](#) is open with a deadline of April 4th for planning grants. There are additional deadlines of May 16th and August 29th. Transit agencies should work with their city or MPO to identify projects such as sidewalk upgrades, bus shelter improvements, traffic signal priority, or dedicated lanes that could be funded through the program.



# CORNERSTONE

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**TO:** Connect Transit Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Cornerstone Government Affairs – Illinois Team  
**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update  
**DATE:** March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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## Summary

This month, our team continued to follow up with House leadership and staff regarding the release of Connect’s appropriation. As follow up to our discussion with the Illinois Public Transportation Association (IPTA) to discuss Connect’s concerns with the low threshold for IDOT approval on purchases, IPTA indicated that they are happy to work through this further based on examples provided by Connect.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for Connect’s visit to Springfield in April to meet with local legislators and discuss priorities for the coming year. We are also continuing to monitor for bill amendments and committee activity on bills which Connect is interested in.

## Bill Tracking

Below are the bills of interest filed this Spring that we wanted to highlight for you. We would be happy to answer any questions on these bills, or any others included in your bill file.

### **HB 1634**

**Short Description:** VEH CD–CALI EMISSION STANDARDS

### **House Sponsors**

Rep. Edgar Gonzalez, Jr., Janet Yang Rohr and Bob Morgan

### **Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Law of 2005 of the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that, by December 1, 2023, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall adopt rules to implement the motor vehicle emission standards of the State of California, including, but not limited to the (1) zero-emission vehicle program, (2) low-emission vehicle program, (3) advanced clean trucks program, and (4) heavy-duty low NOx omnibus program, and shall amend the rules within 6 months of any changes to maintain consistency with the California motor vehicle emission standards and federal clean air laws. Provides that the rules may incorporate by reference the California motor vehicle standards established in final regulations issued by the California Air Resources Board and promulgated under the California Health and Safety Code. Effective immediately.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
1/31/2024	House	Assigned to Energy & Environment Committee

**HB 3904**

**Short Description:** LOCAL OFFICIAL VACANCY POSTING

**House Sponsors**

Rep. Terra Costa Howard

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Creates the Local Official Vacancy Posting Act. Provides that a unit of local government shall post every elected official vacancy on its website, if the full-time staff of the municipality maintain the website, and the county clerk shall also post the vacancy on the county clerk website. Provides that the unit of local government may not fill the vacancy until the posting has been on the municipality's website, or the county's website if the municipality does not have full-time staff maintaining a website, for at least 15 days. Limits home rule powers.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
2/14/2024	House	Assigned to Ethics & Elections

**HB 4402**

**Short Description:** OPN MTG-EMERGENCY DEFINED

**House Sponsors**

Rep. Daniel Didech

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Defines the terms "bona fide emergency" and "exigent circumstances". Provides that, if a quorum of the members of a public body is physically present at a meeting, a majority of the public body may allow a member of that body to attend the meeting by other means if the member is prevented from physically attending because of, among other things, exigent circumstances concerning a family member (rather than because of, among other things, a family or other emergency).

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
2/14/2024	House	Assigned to Executive Committee

**HB 4602****Short Description:** ONE DAY OF REST-VARIOUS**House Sponsors**

Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the One Day Rest In Seven Act. Provides that the calculation of required rest days does not include any time that the employee is on call. Provides that an employee who voluntarily agrees to work on a day of rest must be paid at his or her regular hourly rate or, if applicable, at the overtime wage rate as required by the Illinois Minimum Wage Law. Provides that every employer shall permit its employees who are scheduled or expected to work (rather than are to work) for 7 1/2 continuous hours at least 20 minutes for a meal period beginning no later than 5 hours after the start of the work period. Provides that any employer, or agent or officer of an employer, has violated the Act if he or she discharges, takes an adverse action against, or in any other manner discriminates against any employee because that employee has exercised a right under the Act. Provides that the Director of Labor may (rather than shall) grant long term and short permits authorizing the employment of persons on days of rest. Makes changes in provisions concerning definitions; posting requirements; recordkeeping; and civil offenses. Makes other changes.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
3/5/2024	House	Assigned to Labor & Commerce Committee

**HB 4915****Short Description:** COUNTY TRANSPORTATION REVENUE**House Sponsors**

Rep. Daniel Didech

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Special County Occupation Tax For Public Safety, Public Facilities, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, or Transportation Law of the Counties Code. Provides that the tax may be used for active transportation and public transportation. Makes conforming changes, including to the Law's name. Defines "active transportation" and "public transportation". Makes technical corrections to definition provisions. Amends the Simplified Sales and Use Tax Administration Act to make a conforming change.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
2/7/2024	House	Referred to Rules Committee

**HB 5277**

**Short Description:** TRANSIT-TO-TRAILS PROGRAM

**House Sponsors**

Rep. Justin Slaughter

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Department of Transportation Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program through which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for projects that facilitate travel by public transportation to public outdoor recreation sites for outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, boating, picnicking, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or other nature-based activities. Provides that the Secretary shall offer grants through the Transit to Trails program on an annual basis. Requires the Department of Transportation to adopt rules necessary to implement and administer the program. Provides that, in considering grant applications, the Department shall prioritize projects with demonstrated intent to enhance access to outdoor recreation opportunities for populations in greatest need of improved access to outdoor nature-based recreation. Requires the Department to provide technical assistance in preparing grant applications to applicants upon request. Provides that implementation of the grant program is subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
3/12/2024	House	Assigned to Transportation: Regulations, Roads & Bridges

**HB 5360**

**Short Description:** LOCAL TRANSIT-BUS STOP BENCHES

**House Sponsors**

Rep. Mary Beth Canty

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act, the Local Mass Transit District Act, and the Regional Transportation Authority Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, a local mass transit district, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the Suburban Bus Board must install one bench at each of the entity's public bus stops if the bus stop does not already have a bench installed. Allows a local mass transit district, the Authority, and the Board to install the benches in an order specified by the entities as funding is provided to the entity. Limits the concurrent exercise of home rule powers, except for reasonable restrictions on the location of the bench.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
3/5/2024	House	Assigned to Transportation: Vehicles & Safety

**SB 1556**

**Short Description:** EPA-CLEAN TRANSPORT STANDARD

**Senate Sponsors**

Sen. David Koehler-Cristina Castro-Steve Stadelman, Laura Fine and Mattie Hunter

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Provides that, to the extent allowed by federal law, the Environmental Protection Agency shall propose, within 12 months after the amendatory Act's effective date, and the Pollution Control Board shall adopt, within 12 months after receipt of the Agency's proposal, rules establishing a clean transportation standard to reduce carbon intensity from the on-road transportation sector by 20% by 2038, with further reductions to be implemented at the discretion of the Agency based upon advances in technology. Contains requirements for the Board rules and for the clean transportation standard. Exempts aviation fuels from the clean transportation standard. Provides that producers of sustainable aviation fuel shall be eligible to generate monetary credits on an opt-in basis that may be applied to future obligations or traded to providers not meeting the clean transportation standard. Requires the Agency to submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the implementation of the clean transportation standard, the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that have been achieved through the clean transportation standard, and targets for future reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. Contains other provisions. Effective immediately.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
3/22/2024	Senate	Postponed - Energy and Public Utilities

**SB 2321****Short Description:** RIGHT TO PRIVACY-DRUG TEST**Senate Sponsors**

Sen. Robert Peters

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act. Provides that an employer may not refuse to hire an individual or discipline an employee because results of an individual's drug test indicate the presence of THC on the part of that individual. Permits an employer to enforce a pre-employment drug testing policy, zero-tolerance drug testing policy, random drug testing policy, or a drug-free workplace policy or disciplining an employee for violating such policy, but provides that an employer may not take adverse action against an employee solely because of a positive drug test for cannabis unless the test result exceeds limits set forth in certain DUI provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code. Sets forth conditions under which an employer may discipline an employee for impairment. Provides that there is not a cause of action for any person against an employer for disciplining or terminating the employment of an individual when enforcing a compliant policy. Amends the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act. Repeals provisions concerning employment and employer liability.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
2/8/2024	Senate	To Subcommittee on Cannabis

**SB 2691****Short Description:** EMPLOYEE SICK LEAVE-NOTICE**Senate Sponsors**

Sen. Laura Fine

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Employee Sick Leave Act. Provides that an employer may limit the use of personal sick leave benefits provided by the employer for absences due to an illness, injury, medical appointment, or personal care of the employee's covered family member to an amount not less than the personal sick leave that would be earned or accrued during 9 months (rather than 6 months) at the employee's then

current rate of entitlement. Provides that, for employers who base personal sick leave benefits on an employee's years of service instead of annual or monthly accrual, such employer may limit the amount of sick leave to be used under this Act to three-fourths of the employee's maximum annual grant (rather than half of the employee's maximum annual grant). Provides that an employer may not require an employee to provide advance notice of his or her use of personal sick leave benefits. Makes a corresponding change.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
1/10/2024	Senate	Referred to Assignments

**SB 3160**

**Short Description:** CARBON FUEL STANDARDS ACT

**Senate Sponsors**

Sen. Cristina Castro

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Creates the Low Carbon Fuel Standards Program Act. Establishes the Low Carbon Standards Program to be administered by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Provides that the Program shall establish declining carbon intensity standards, expressed in terms of the carbon intensity of transportation fuels, to be achieved during each compliance period. Provides that providers of transportation fuel must demonstrate that the mix of fuels they supply for use in Illinois meets the carbon intensity benchmarks of the program for each annual compliance period. Effective immediately.

**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
2/6/2024	Senate	Referred to Assignments

**General Legislative Updates**

**2024 PRIMARY ELECTION**

Illinois' primary election returned to March this year following a move to a June primary election in 2022 due to a delay in processing census information data that in turn pushed back Illinois' redrawing of Legislative and Congressional districts.

In 2024, in addition to casting ballots for President, 21 state Senate offices are up for grabs, as are all 118 state House seats. All 17 Illinois Congressional seats are up for election. The Illinois Supreme Court has two races. There are no statewide offices up for election this year.

Currently, Democrats hold all Statewide Constitutional offices as well as veto-proof majorities in both chambers of the State House (40 Democrats /19 Republicans in the Illinois Senate and 78 Democrats/40 Republicans in the Illinois House). While the size of the legislative majorities could change in November, Democrats are expected to maintain control of the General Assembly for the foreseeable future.

Voters in Chicago were asked to consider the Bring Chicago Home - a ballot referendum that would establish a one-time real-estate transfer tax on properties valued at \$1 million or more. Although votes are being counted, surprisingly the measure – pushed by Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and progressives in the city – is losing 54% to 46%.

Voter turnout – or the lack thereof- was key in Tuesday’s contests. Both election day turnout and early voting were down this Presidential election – a trend which tended to favor incumbents on Tuesday’s ballot. With the Presidential candidates already determined, with a few exceptions moderate voters from either party saw little reason to head to the polls thus allowing progressive Democrats and conservative Republicans to once again dominate primary voting in Illinois.

### **103<sup>rd</sup> ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned this week after meeting Wednesday through Friday. There will be no session next week. The Illinois House will return to session Tuesday, April 2 for four days. Friday, April 5 is the House committee deadline. The Senate is off for two weeks, returning Tuesday, April 9.

As expected, the Senate extended the committee deadline for 398 bills. The full list is [here](#).

[HB 5395](#) (Moeller), which creates the Health Care Consumer Access and Protection Act, passed out of the House Human Services Committee on a 6-3 vote. An initiative of Governor Pritzker, the legislation seeks to: ban step therapy entirely; ban prior authorization for in-patient mental health care; establish statewide standards on clinical criteria when performing utilization reviews; prohibit insurance companies from selling Short Term Limited Duration Plans; require insurers to publicly list all treatments that require prior authorization; and prevent insurance companies from unfairly increasing rates on consumers. The sponsor indicated she intends to work on an additional amendment before the bill is voted on by the full House. HB 5395 is now pending before the full House.

Protecting Illinois children from social media is the aim of [HB 5380](#) (Gong-Gershowitz) which passed unanimously from the House Consumer Protection Committee. By creating the Let Parents Choose Protection Act, the bill gives parents the option of using third party safety software on all major social media platforms (such as Snapchat, Google, You Tube, Reddit, TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram). The sponsor pledged to continue conversations about “legitimate concerns”, but that she will not commit to appeasing tech companies. HB 5380 now heads to the full House.

Legislation to create the Portable Batteries Stewardship Act – [HB 5348](#) (Chung) – is now before the full House after passing from the House Energy and Environment Committee by a vote of 20-2.

Units of local government could regulate the use of drones (for example, over parks, playgrounds, wildlife areas, or other recreational facilities) under [HB 4715](#) (Rita). The bill had unanimous approval by the House Executive Committee and is now pending before the full House. The sponsor pledged to continue working on the legislation.

Legislation to create a mobile driver's license/identification card - [HB 4592](#) (Buckner) unanimously passed the House Transportation Committee. The proposed legislation would authorize the Illinois Secretary of State to create and issue mobile Identification Cards and Drivers Licenses. HB 4592 is now pending before the full House.

The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved [SB 3420](#) (Gillespie), which now heads to the full Senate. The measure provides that unfair service agreements cannot be enforced, and it is unlawful for a business to enter into such an agreement with a consumer.

The Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act would be created by [HB 4762](#) (Gong Gershowitz); it passed unanimously from the House Judiciary Committee and now heads to the full House.

Making psilocybin legal for medical treatment of mental health conditions would occur under [SB 3695](#) (Ventura). The Senate Executive Committee held a subject matter hearing on the bill, which would create the Compassionate Use and Research of Entheogens Act. According to proponents, 23 states are pursuing similar legislation, and their testimony promoted the benefits of psilocybin for treating various mental health conditions including drug resistant depression, PTSD, obsessive-compulsive disorder, addiction, anxiety and others. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Speaker Welch formed a Teacher Shortage Working Group to address vacancies in Illinois schools and explore recruitment and retention of qualified educators. Representative Katie Stuart will lead the new initiative. Other members: Representatives Harry Benton, Sharon Chung, Fred Crespo, Will Davis, Laura Faver Dias, Michelle Mussman, Aaron Ortiz and Sue Scherer. More info [here](#).

### **2024 Key Dates and Session Deadlines:**

April 5: House Committee Deadline for House Bills

April 12: Senate Third Reading Deadline

April 19: House Third Reading Deadline

May 3: Committee Deadline for Bills in the Opposite Chamber

May 17: House and Senate Third Reading Deadline for Bills in the Opposite Chamber

May 24: Adjournment

May 25 – 31: Contingent Session Days

### **GOVERNOR'S HIGHLIGHTS:**

**New Laws:** Governor Pritzker signed [SB 15](#) (Harmon), which divides Chicago into 10 districts and 20 subdistricts for determining members of the Chicago Board of Education (BoE). Later this year, the

Mayor will appoint the BoE President and 10 members. Then in the 2024 general election, an additional 10 members will be elected. All members of the Chicago Board of Education will be elected in the 2026 general election.

**Major General Rich Neely to Retire:** After 40 years of service, May will bring retirement for Major General Rich Neely -- Adjutant General for Illinois, Commander of the Illinois National Guard, and Director of the Illinois Department of Military Affairs. Replacing him will be Major General Rodney Boyd.

**Executive Order 2024-01:** Providing a framework for financing and expanding access to new therapies and medications –like the recently approved gene therapies for Sickle Cell Disease – are the essence of [Executive Order 2024-01](#) recently signed by the Governor. The measure directs the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to establish -- within the Illinois Medicaid program -- financial structures for access to new sickle cell disease treatments and other new high-cost drugs and treatment. The EO also creates the Advisory Council on Financing and Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatment and Other High-Cost Drugs and Treatment; it is to deliver a set of recommendations by December 31. The new Advisory Council is to bring a special emphasis to value- and outcome-based models and identify payment and financing options. Read more [here](#).

**Next General Capacity Building Initiative:** The inaugural class of the Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative has been announced; the effort zeros in on capital, training, and technical assistance to reduce barriers to entry for developers of color. Both the Illinois Housing Development Authority and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation are spearheading Next Gen. The initial cohort of 21 emerging developers will help further Illinois’ goal of growing a diverse pool of affordable housing developers. Read more [here](#).

**EPA Funding Opportunity for Sharps Collection:** The Illinois EPA is offering grants to units of local government for household waste collection and disposal of sharps (needles, syringes and lancets). Up to \$35,000 per applicant will be awarded, to cover the expenses of collecting, storing, and disposing of used sharps. Possible eligible expenses include: purchase of collection containers for use not only by individual residents but also at collection stations; mobilization fees from Potentially Infectious Medical Waste (PIMW) transporters to pick up collected sharps; and disposal fees for the collected sharps. Application deadline is June 25, 2024. A Notice of Funding Opportunity is [here](#). Required forms and info [here](#).

**IDPH Issues Standing Order for Asthma Inhalers:** The Illinois Department of Public Health signed a standing order allowing trained personnel in schools to use “undesigned” asthma inhalers to treat students with respiratory distress. Undesignated medications are those that are not prescribed for a specific student but can be used in an emergency to address any student’s asthma-related symptoms. The order is in effect through February of 2025 and will be reviewed and updated annually. Read more [here](#).

**Homeowner Assistance Fund:** The Illinois Housing Development Authority released the Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) Final Report. Created through the State’s allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, ILHAF provided relief to households still reeling from financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the final report [here](#).

**Procurement Webinar Series:** The Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion is offering a new Business Enterprise Program and Veterans Business Program Certification Educational Webinar series. The effort is in collaboration with Chief Procurement Offices; more info [here](#).

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Attorney General Appeals Venue Shopping Ruling:** The Illinois Supreme Court is being asked to decide on the constitutionality of [HB 3062](#) – it became Public Act [103-0005](#) which limits the filing of challenges to state laws and actions to Cook and Sangamon counties. Attorney General Kwame Raoul appealed directly to the state’s high court after a Madison County judge ruled that the law violated the due process rights of one plaintiff in a lawsuit in that jurisdiction. Capitol News offers more [here](#).

**Felons Possessing Firearms:** AG Raoul led a coalition of 22 attorneys general in filing an [amicus brief](#) defending the federal law that prohibits possession of firearms by people who have been convicted of felonies. Filed in U.S. v Prince, Raoul and the coalition ask the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit to overturn a lower court ruling that found the law unconstitutional. Read more [here](#).

**Methane Emissions:** AG Raoul joined several attorneys general in another matter as well. He and 20 other attorneys general united in filing a [motion to intervene](#) in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to defend the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Oil and Gas Methane Rule.

The agency’s final rule strengthens the regulation of methane emissions from new, modified, and reconstructed facilities in the oil and natural gas sector. It also, for the first time, regulates emissions from existing facilities. A group of states, led by Texas and Oklahoma, is challenging the rule. Read more [here](#).

### **OTHER NEWS:**

**Gaming Board March Meeting:** The Illinois Gaming Board held its monthly meeting on March 14. Read a complete list of board action [here](#).

**Pretrial Release Appeals Task Force:** The Illinois Supreme Court received and approved the report and recommendations from the Pretrial Release Appeals Task Force. Created in January 2024, the Task Force reviewed pretrial release appeals and their impact on the caseloads in each of the five Appellate Court districts.

Proposed amendments by the Task Force aim to streamline the PFA (Pretrial Fairness Act) appeal process while ensuring that the pretrial setting still has a meaningful review of decisions to detain, release, or impose conditions of release. The appellate courts have faced a significant increase in caseloads since the Pretrial Fairness Act began on September 18, 2023. Specifically, the caseload levels went from an average of 17 annual bond appeals to a projected 4,557 appeals under the PFA -- a 268-fold increase. The amendments are available [here](#) and are effective April 15, 2024. The full report with recommendations can be found [here](#). The Chicago Tribune offers more [here](#).

**US EPA Issues Rules Targeting “Tailpipe Emissions”:** On Wednesday, the US EPA issued new first of the kind rules targeting tailpipe emissions, aimed at ensuring the majority of new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the nation are electric or hybrid by the year 2032. The rule phases in increasingly strict standards so that by 2032 most new cars sold would need to be zero-emission vehicles to meet the new standard. Read more [here](#).

**Chief of Staff to Chicago Mayor to Step Down:** Rich Guidice, Chief of Staff for Chicago Mayor Johnson, is retiring at the end of the month. Former State Senator and current First Deputy Chief of Staff Christina Pacione-Zayas is reportedly next in line.

**Campaign Update:** Republican Representative Adam Niemerg prevailed in his write-in campaign against IEA funded Jim Acklin.



## MEMO

Date: March 26, 2024  
To: Board of Trustees  
From: Pat Kuebrich, Finance Director  
Subject: Recommendation of Cash Farm Lease

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### **Recommendation:**

Authorize the General Manager to sign and enter into a seven month Cash Farm Lease with Mark Thompson beginning on April 1, 2024, and ending on or about October 31, 2024, on a cash rent basis of \$200.00 per acre per year, for a total of \$1,000 per lease term.

### **Background:**

In the past several years Connect Transit has leased the five acres of land to the west of our operations and maintenance facility to Mark Thompson to use as farmland. Under the lease agreement, the property is maintained by the Lessee and provides additional revenue to Connect Transit.

### **Discussion:**

The land produces average to fair yields due to sitting rather low and does not properly drain because of tile damage. Per the Farmland Values and Lease Trends, the typical cash rental rates per acre of land with average productivity ranges from \$150 to \$250. The purpose of the seven month term is to allow flexibility for future development of that property for Connect Transit use.

### **Financial Impact:**

Revenue received will be directed to fiscal year 2025 operational revenues.

## CASH FARM LEASE

MADE AND ENTERED into by and between Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System, herein after called "Lessor", and Mark Thompson, herein after called "Lessee", this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

WITNESSETH:

1. That the Lessor hereby leases to Lessee, during the time period commencing on the 1st day of April, 2024, and ending on or about the 31st day of October, 2024, the following property (see Attachment A) to be used for farming purposes only. The tillable acres are stipulated to be 5 acres, more or less. Lessee, in consideration of this lease, agrees to pay cash rent on the basis of \$200.00 per acre per year.

Annual rent is due and payable in the amount of \$1,000.00 on November 1, 2024.

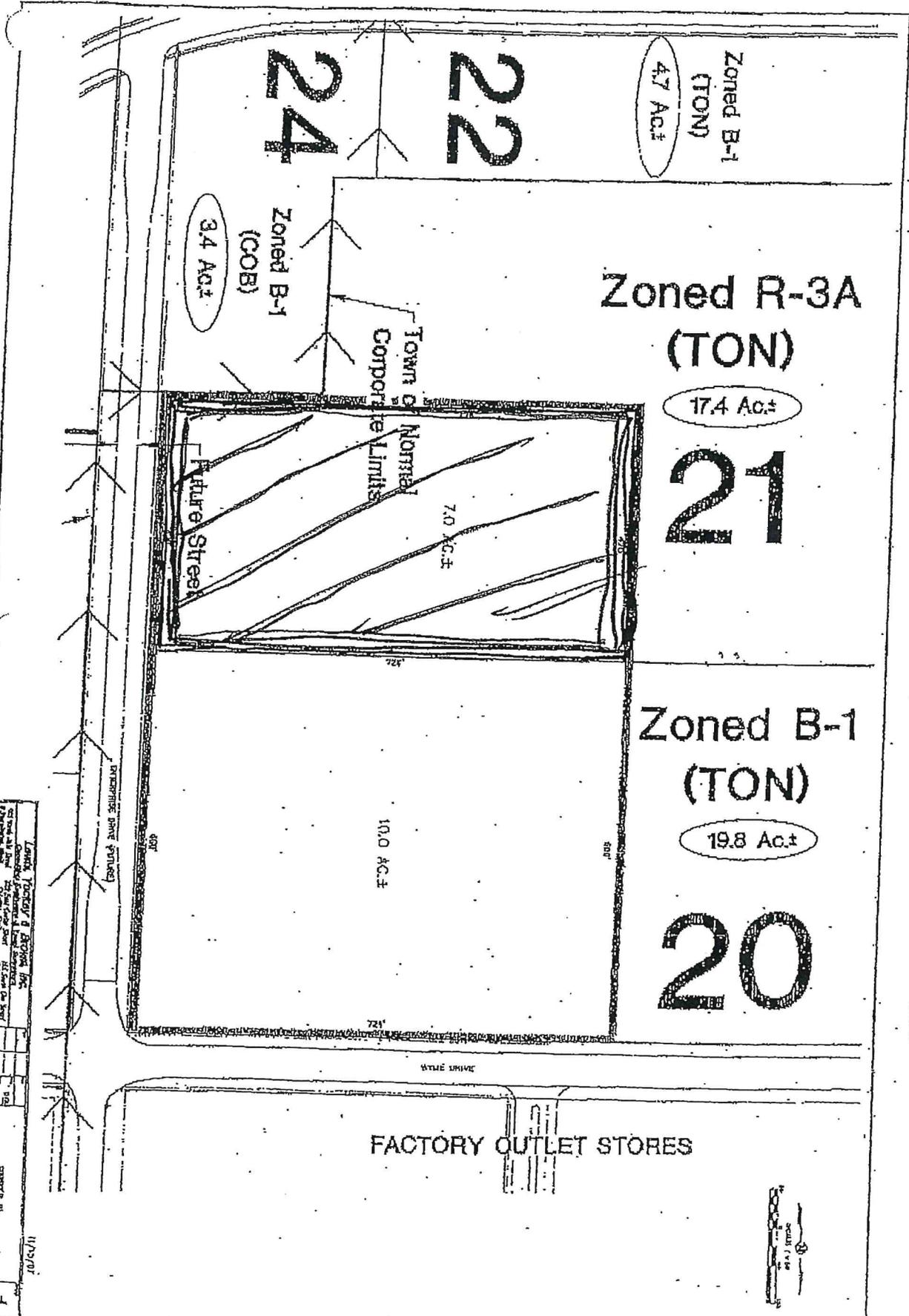
2. Lessee agrees to do and perform the following items:
  - Roadways shall be mowed at least twice during the growing season.
  - Spray fence rows in the spring with brush killer or other material.
  - To plant cover crop in the event layout acres are provided under the Government Program.
  - Ditch maintenance and tiling would be responsibility of Lessor.
  - Not to damage any existing grass waterways.
  - To provide adequate crop insurance.
  - To vacate said premises at the expiration of this lease without any notice to quit or any demands and to deliver up the premises to the Lessor.
  - Lessor consents to Lessee entering into any farm program and agrees to join in executing necessary agreements with Lessee receiving farm program payments.
  - To prorate lime application over a 4-year period.

IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND ACKNOWLEDGED that Lessor has a lien against all crops harvested for payment of cash rent.

IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED that this land is rent for farm use only.

WITNESS our hands and seals this 26th day of March, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lessor \_\_\_\_\_ Lessee



Landmark Property & Services, Inc.  
 200 West 10th Street  
 Des Moines, IA 50319  
 515-281-1111  
 11/20/07  
 SHEETS 31



## MEMO

Date: March 26, 2024  
To: Board of Trustees  
From: Aubrey Staton, Marketing Manager  
Subject: Recommendation for Zero-Fare on Earth Day

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### **Recommendation:**

Authorize the transit system to allow riders to utilize fixed route, Connect Mobility, and Connect FLEX services at no charge to passengers on Monday, April 22, 2024, in honor of Earth Day.

### **Background:**

Our system has historically operated at no charge to passengers to encourage the community to use public transportation instead of personal vehicles on Earth Day. Personal vehicles are the largest contributors to a household's carbon footprint. On a day dedicated to reducing carbon footprints and environmental impact, the easiest way to lower your carbon footprint is to take public transit. We would like to give our community the opportunity to do so by operating without charging a fare.

### **Financial Impact:**

This will result in the loss of one day's worth of fares.



## MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2024  
TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: David Braun, General Manager  
Subject: Clarification of By-Laws Pertaining to Executive Session Attendance by Other Means

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### **Recommendation:**

Clarify by-laws to prohibit attending an Executive Session by other means (video, telephone, etc.). Further recommend that Executive Sessions be held in the Administrative Conference Room or another pre-designated on-site room, physically removed from the regular meeting location. Those in attendance at the regular meeting may remain in the regular meeting room during the Executive Session.

Once clarified, the by-laws of the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System will be changed appropriately in Section 5. Meetings of the Trustees.

Updated by-laws will be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and available through the Board Clerk.

### **Background:**

As discussed during the October 24, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting, Connect Transit Administration has two sets of signed and notarized by-laws dated May 2015 and September 2015. The May 2015 by-laws indicate that Trustees cannot attend a closed meeting by other means. In our meeting RSVP request to Trustees, we also included a phrase stating that 'Other means' is by video or audio conference. A Trustee(s) may not attend a closed meeting by other means....

Another set of by-laws dated September 2015 did not have this language included.

Each of the by-laws indicate that it was "approved unanimously by the Trustees at a meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2015 and are still in full force and effect."

Given the difference between by-laws, a concern that was raised, and the inconsistent information provided to the Board, the Administration makes the recommendations shown above.

For reference, the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) offers the following:

“Except as otherwise provided in this Act, a quorum of members of a public body... must be physically present at the location of a closed meeting. Other members who are not physically present at a closed meeting of such a public body may participate in the meeting by means of a video or audio conference...”

**Discussion:**

The OMA defines a “meeting” as “any gathering, whether in person or by video or audio conference, telephone call, electronic means (such as, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, and instant messaging), or other means of contemporaneous interactive communication, of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business...”

A closed meeting is allowed for specific purposes, including:

- Employment Matters
- Real Estate Matters
- Sale or Purchase of Securities
- Security Matters
- Litigation or Claims
- Informants
- Professional Ethics
- Peer Review
- Auditing Matters
- Closed Meeting Minutes
- A few others that don't pertain to the business of this Board.

Closed meetings are allowed because these are sensitive topics that impact the privacy and security of people or the agency. The question of whether to allow attendance by other means directly concerns whether the location of the “other means” is private and secure, and not open to others listening in and hearing the sensitive business of the Board.



## MEMO

Date: March 26, 2024  
To: Board of Trustees  
From: David Braun, General Manager  
Subject: Draft Strategic Plan - Informational

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### Background:

The draft Connect Transit Strategic Plan document was sent to Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, for review.

### Discussion:

The draft Connect Transit Strategic Plan was sent to the Trustees with guidance provided on what to consider when reviewing the plan. The strategic plan spans over three years and is quite lengthy. Rather than recommending it for approval, I will offer additional time for feedback from Trustees before it is brought to the Board for a final presentation and approval.

The draft strategic plan concepts and direction will be presented at the March 26, 2024, meeting. I will schedule 1:1 meetings with Board members throughout April to receive feedback, review, clarify language or modify the plan. The final presentation will be brought to the Board for approval at its April 23, 2024, meeting.



## MEMO

Date: March 26, 2024

To: Board of Trustees

From: David Braun, General Manager  
Patrick Kuebrich, Finance Director

Subject: Recommendation of FY25 Operating and Capital Budget

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget be adopted.

### **Background:**

Our Draft FY25 Budget was presented for your review and consideration at the Connect Transit Board of Trustees February meeting.

### **Discussion:**

The FY25 budget includes 105,864 revenue hours for fixed route service (down 9.5% from FY24) and includes 1,980 hours for additional microtransit zones in late 2025. The FY25 budget also includes 53,969 revenue hours for Connect Mobility (up 33% from FY24) and assumes an increase of 27% increase in the number of Connect Mobility trips based on ridership trends.

### **Financial Impact:**

The total FY25 budget of \$20,054,326 is 6.3% higher than the FY24 budget.