



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, Annual Meeting

April 23, 2024 – 4:15 p.m.

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

YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/a42e6YQrtmg?feature=share>

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
 - a. Attendance by Other Means/Virtual – Roll Call Vote
- C. Receive Nominations for the following Officers:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair
 - c. Secretary
- D. Close Nominations
- E. Elections of Officers (Roll Call Vote)
- F. Adjournment of Annual Meeting (Regular Session immediately follows)

Mission:

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



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AGENDA

Connect Transit Board of Trustees, Regular Session

April 23, 2024 - 4:30 p.m.

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

YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/a42e6YQrtmg?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 March 26, 2024
 - b. Approval of Financial Information for March 2024
 - c. Monthly Statistical Reports for March 2024
 - d. Cardinal Infrastructure Federal Report
 - e. Cornerstone – Illinois Weekly Update
- F. Committee Reports
- G. New Business
 - a. Microgrid Feasibility Report – Informational
 - b. Recommendation to Approve 2024 – 2027 Strategic Business Plan – Roll Call Vote
- H. Chairman’s Report
- I. General Manager’s Report
- J. Trustee Comments
- K. Executive Session
 - a. ILCS 120/2(c)(5) – Property Acquisition
- L. Adjournment

Mission:

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



March 2024

Financial Reports





Connect Transit Cash Disbursement Report March 2024

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
A.T.U. - C.O.P.E.	00058550	08-Mar-24	\$325.35	Payroll Deduction
ABC Bus Companies	00058551	08-Mar-24	\$4,084.83	Bus Parts
ABC Bus Companies	00058609	22-Mar-24	\$2,303.78	Bus Parts
Advance Auto Parts	00058552	08-Mar-24	\$854.19	Maintenance Supplies
Advance Auto Parts	00058610	22-Mar-24	\$607.69	Maintenance Supplies
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00058553	08-Mar-24	\$7,892.00	Payroll Deduction
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00058611	22-Mar-24	\$250.00	Payroll Deduction
Amazon Capital Service	00058554	08-Mar-24	\$450.75	Building Maintenance, Computer Hardware & Materials & Supplies
Amazon Capital Service	00058612	22-Mar-24	\$341.28	Employee Recognition, Office Supplies
Ancel Glink, P.C.	00058613	22-Mar-24	\$165.00	Legal Service
Aramark Uniform Services	00058555	08-Mar-24	\$511.24	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Aramark Uniform Services	00058614	22-Mar-24	\$472.00	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Automotive Equip. Sales & Service, Inc.	00058556	08-Mar-24	\$1,123.81	Bus Parts
Awards Network	00058557	08-Mar-24	\$1,675.00	Employee Recognition
Awards Network	00058615	22-Mar-24	\$3,025.00	Employee Recognition
Azimuth Energy, LLC	00058616	22-Mar-24	\$8,000.00	Consulting
B & B Awards and Recognition, Inc	00058558	08-Mar-24	\$24.00	Printer Materials
Best One of Central IL	00058559	08-Mar-24	\$314.00	Outside Repair
Bloomington-Normal YMCA	00058617	22-Mar-24	\$250.00	Advertising
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois	00058618	22-Mar-24	\$154,949.48	Insurance
Blue Springs, Inc	00058619	22-Mar-24	\$180.00	Portable Restrooms
Bonaco, Inc.	00058620	22-Mar-24	\$372.35	Bus Parts
Cardinal Infrastructure, LLC	00058621	22-Mar-24	\$6,000.00	Consulting
Carlson Siding & Construction	00058622	22-Mar-24	\$400.00	Building Maintenance
Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District	00058560	08-Mar-24	\$1,449.04	Bus Parts
Checkr, Inc.	00058623	22-Mar-24	\$655.92	New Hire Background Checks
Christopher O. Sharkey II	00058561	08-Mar-24	\$200.00	Tool Reimbursement
CIRBN, LLC	00058624	22-Mar-24	\$147.13	Internet
CIT Trucks, LLC - Normal	00058562	08-Mar-24	\$6,223.78	Bus Parts
CIT Trucks, LLC - Normal	00058626	22-Mar-24	\$8,475.00	Bus Parts
City of Bloomington(Water)	00058563	08-Mar-24	\$956.55	Utilities
Clark Baird Smith, LLP	00058627	22-Mar-24	\$93.75	Legal Service
Clean Exhaust Specialist	00058564	08-Mar-24	\$4,076.00	Bus Parts
Clean Exhaust Specialist	00058628	22-Mar-24	\$613.00	Bus Parts
Concur Technologies, Inc	00058629	22-Mar-24	\$378.75	Software
Cornerstone Government Affairs	00058565	08-Mar-24	\$3,958.33	Consulting
Cummins Sales and Service	00058630	22-Mar-24	\$770.00	Bus Parts
Custom Wash One, Inc	00058631	22-Mar-24	\$569.82	Building Maintenance
Don Owen Tire Service, Inc.	00058566	08-Mar-24	\$24.65	Bus Parts
Don Owen Tire Service, Inc.	00058632	22-Mar-24	\$30.60	Bus Parts
Dovetail, Inc.	00058633	22-Mar-24	\$2,772.00	Consulting
Drago Vantage, LLC	00058567	08-Mar-24	\$5,000.00	Consulting
Eagle Automotive	00058568	08-Mar-24	\$990.00	Bus Parts
Eagle Automotive	00058634	22-Mar-24	\$606.42	Bus Parts
Fasteners Etc.	00058569	08-Mar-24	\$609.05	Maintenance Supplies
Fitzgerald Equipment Co., Inc.	00058635	22-Mar-24	\$1,029.87	Gargage Equipment Repair
Galls, LLC	00058570	08-Mar-24	\$827.51	Uniforms
Genfare, LLC	00058571	08-Mar-24	\$1,067.25	Software and Hardware
Genfare, LLC	ACH	20-Mar-24	\$42.50	Pass Refund
Genfare, LLC	ACH	21-Mar-24	\$40.00	Pass Refund
Genfare, LLC	00058636	22-Mar-24	\$746.92	Software and Hardware
Gillig LLC	00058572	08-Mar-24	\$1,430.64	Bus Parts
Gillig LLC	00058637	22-Mar-24	\$151.68	Bus Parts
Global Industrial	00058573	08-Mar-24	\$444.24	Garage Supplies
Government Finance Officers Association	00058670	29-Mar-24	\$460.00	Dues & Subscriptions
Grainger	00058574	08-Mar-24	\$188.79	Office Cabinets
Grainger	00058638	22-Mar-24	\$352.82	Office Cabinets



Connect Transit Cash Disbursement Report March 2024

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
Great Plains Media	00058575	08-Mar-24	\$1,600.00	Radio Advertising
Grover Trunell	00058576	08-Mar-24	\$174.00	Uniform Reimbursement
Hicks Gas Bloomington LLC	00058577	08-Mar-24	\$728.84	LP Gas
Hicks Gas Bloomington LLC	00058639	22-Mar-24	\$796.19	LP Gas
Hohulin Fence Co.	00058578	08-Mar-24	\$2,600.00	Building Maintenance
HOI Vending	00058640	22-Mar-24	\$203.00	Office Supplies
Illinois Department of Revenue	ACH	08-Mar-24	\$16,601.15	State Taxes
Illinois Department of Revenue	ACH	25-Mar-24	\$16,703.95	State Taxes
Illinois Dept of Revenue Wage Levy Unit	00058579	08-Mar-24	\$238.50	Payroll Deduction
Illinois Dept of Revenue Wage Levy Unit	00058641	22-Mar-24	\$87.47	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement	ACH	07-Mar-24	\$1,509.00	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement	ACH	21-Mar-24	\$1,358.57	Payroll Deduction
Illinois Oil Marketing Equipment, Inc.	00058642	22-Mar-24	\$413.50	Fuel Station
Justin Allen	00058667	25-Mar-24	\$579.02	Travel & Meetings
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00058580	08-Mar-24	\$44,440.43	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00058643	22-Mar-24	\$47,250.47	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Kirk's Automotive, Inc	00058644	22-Mar-24	\$1,594.00	Bus Parts
KJ Backpack, LLC	00058581	08-Mar-24	\$3,876.54	Consulting
Lauterbach & Amen, LLP	00058668	25-Mar-24	\$2,000.00	Audit
Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC	00058645	22-Mar-24	\$210,980.00	Insurance
Menards	00058646	22-Mar-24	\$178.69	Materials & Supplies & Shop Tools
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00058582	08-Mar-24	\$75.11	Bus Parts
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00058647	22-Mar-24	\$490.46	Bus Parts
Miller Janitor Supply	00058583	08-Mar-24	\$415.65	Maintenance Supplies
Miller Janitor Supply	00058648	22-Mar-24	\$177.35	Maintenance Supplies
Missionsquare	ACH	06-Mar-24	\$37,334.28	Retirement
Missionsquare	ACH	21-Mar-24	\$38,447.61	Retirement
Mohawk Mfg. & Supply Co.	00058584	08-Mar-24	\$666.85	Bus Parts
Mohawk Mfg. & Supply Co.	00058649	22-Mar-24	\$160.58	Bus Parts
Morris Avenue Garage	00058585	08-Mar-24	\$240.00	Vehicle Inspection
Morris Avenue Garage	00058650	22-Mar-24	\$160.00	Vehicle Inspection
Mutual of Omaha	00058669	25-Mar-24	\$21,276.83	Life, AD&D, STD & LTD
Napa Auto Parts	00058586	08-Mar-24	\$31.48	Bus Parts
Napa Auto Parts	00058651	22-Mar-24	\$15.28	Bus Parts
Nicor Gas	00058587	08-Mar-24	\$5,418.09	Utilities
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	00058588	08-Mar-24	\$434.72	Office Supplies & Safety & Training
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	00058652	22-Mar-24	\$71.47	Office Supplies
OSF Medical Group - Occupational Health	00058653	22-Mar-24	\$1,198.00	Drug Testing
Payroll	ACH	07-Mar-24	\$275,868.10	
Payroll	ACH	21-Mar-24	\$278,654.71	
Phoenix Cars, LLC	00058654	22-Mar-24	\$158.14	Bus Parts
Purchase Power	00058589	08-Mar-24	\$300.00	Postage
Reinhart Landscaping & Snow	00058590	08-Mar-24	\$2,800.00	Snow Removal
Republic Services # 368	00058591	08-Mar-24	\$762.36	Garbage Disposal
Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc	00058592	08-Mar-24	\$341.81	Lubricant Waste Disposal
Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc	00058655	22-Mar-24	\$358.41	Solvent Tank
Sam Leman Chrysler Dodge Jeep	00058656	22-Mar-24	\$340.80	Bus Parts
Sam Leman Ford	00058593	08-Mar-24	\$496.48	Outside Repair
Siemens Industry, Inc.	00058671	29-Mar-24	\$23,500.00	Consulting
Southtown Wrecker Service, Inc.,	00058594	08-Mar-24	\$330.00	Towing
Southtown Wrecker Service, Inc.,	00058657	22-Mar-24	\$165.00	Towing
Stark Excavating, INC.	00058595	08-Mar-24	\$11,685.30	Concrete
Stratus Networks	00058596	08-Mar-24	\$3,312.48	Internet
SumnerOne, Inc.	00058597	08-Mar-24	\$2,337.39	Copier Lease
Sun Loan- Bloomington - IL	00058598	08-Mar-24	\$169.45	Payroll Deduction
Sun Loan- Bloomington - IL	00058658	22-Mar-24	\$169.45	Payroll Deduction
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00058599	08-Mar-24	\$14,730.89	Bus Parts
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00058660	22-Mar-24	\$8,847.18	Bus Parts



**Connect Transit
Cash Disbursement Report
March 2024**

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
The Copy Shop	00058661	22-Mar-24	\$762.00	Printing
Thomas Larson	00058662	22-Mar-24	\$100.00	Uniforms
Town of Normal-Utility Billing	00058600	08-Mar-24	\$340.35	Utilites
Town of Normal-Utility Billing	00058606	07-Mar-24	\$298.62	Utilites
TransitTalent.com	00058601	08-Mar-24	\$125.00	Public Notices
TRAVELERS	00058602	08-Mar-24	\$4,370.17	Property Damage
United States Treasury	ACH	12-Mar-24	\$92,174.95	Federal Taxes
United States Treasury	ACH	25-Mar-24	\$91,468.69	Federal Taxes
UPS	00058603	08-Mar-24	\$35.84	Shipping
UPS	00058663	22-Mar-24	\$88.18	Shipping
Verizon Wireless	00058604	08-Mar-24	\$3,386.42	Mobile Data Terminals for SS
Verizon Wireless	00058607	14-Mar-24	\$3,892.33	Mobile Data Terminals for SS
Via Mobility, LLC	00058605	08-Mar-24	\$4,800.00	Consulting
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	\$100.00	Support Vehicles
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	(\$185.84)	Office Supplies
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	\$1,959.95	Software Licensing
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	\$519.87	Dues& Subscriptions
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	\$13,338.36	Travel & Meetings
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	\$154.90	Employee Recognition
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	\$238.00	Safety/Training
VISA-Commerce Bank	00058608	14-Mar-24	\$1,831.04	Misc Expense
VSP of Illinois, NFP	00058664	22-Mar-24	\$1,205.41	Vision Insurance
Weed Man	00058665	22-Mar-24	\$129.60	Lawn Care
Wilcox Electric & Service, inc	00058666	22-Mar-24	\$858.68	Building Maintenance
		Total	\$1,547,801.31	

Bloomington Normal Public Transit Balance Sheet

Division: 99 Board Reports

As of: 3/31/2024

Fiscal Year: 2024 Period: 9 Mar-2024

Assets

Current Assets

Checking and Savings	\$4,269,161.79
Accounts Receivable	\$6,300,751.00
Inventory Asset - Fuel	\$110,333.65
Inventory Asset - Parts	\$432,246.75
Inventory Asset - Tires	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	\$656,270.96

Total Current Assets \$11,768,764.15

Fixed Assets \$30,447,052.29

Total Assets \$42,215,816.44

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$222,879.38
Payroll Liabilities	\$1,432,504.15
Contracts	\$0.00
Due to Illinois Funds Account	\$0.00
Deferred Revenue	\$170,213.15
Deficit Funding Advance	\$0.00

Total Liabilities \$1,825,596.68

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 \$21,136,274.37

Total Liabilities & Equity \$42,215,816.44

Bloomington Normal Public Transit Income Statement With Approved Budget

From Fiscal Year: 2024 Thru Fiscal Year: 2024	From Period 9 Thru Period 9	Division: 98 Operating Profit/Loss		As of: 3/31/2024	
		Mar-2024		Jul-2023 Mar-2024	Approved Budget
Operating Revenue					
Passenger Fares		\$53,959.54	9.95%	\$410,448.47	75.66% \$542,500.00
ISU Contract Fare		\$48,670.68	8.33%	\$438,036.12	75.00% \$584,048.00
Other Contract Fares		\$20,294.32	10.15%	\$192,870.14	96.44% \$200,000.00
Advertising Revenue		\$8,025.00	6.84%	\$91,091.66	77.66% \$117,300.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		\$89.30	0.94%	\$30,086.04	316.70% \$9,500.00
Total Operating Revenue		\$131,038.84	9.02%	\$1,162,532.43	79.99% \$1,453,348.00
Operating Expenses					
Operators Wages		\$634,555.42	7.96%	\$5,965,442.79	74.87% \$7,967,560.00
Maintenance Wages		\$111,648.80	7.09%	\$991,140.75	62.98% \$1,573,647.00
Administration Wages		\$90,012.78	7.64%	\$869,244.90	73.80% \$1,177,806.00
Employer Payroll Tax Expense		\$72,134.62	8.29%	\$648,322.08	74.54% \$869,722.00
Retirement Plan		\$33,987.62	6.34%	\$299,651.93	55.91% \$535,951.00
Group Insurance		\$169,106.87	7.56%	\$1,474,789.16	65.91% \$2,237,512.00
Uniform Expense		\$870.56	1.37%	\$28,943.28	45.67% \$63,375.00
Professional Services		\$57,281.07	25.63%	\$365,388.21	163.48% \$223,500.00
Outside Repair-Labor		\$1,862.10	1.33%	\$38,272.67	27.34% \$140,000.00
Contract Maintenance Services		\$16,579.22	7.07%	\$114,580.72	48.87% \$234,476.00
Custodial Services		\$1,232.36	6.47%	\$16,833.75	88.32% \$19,060.00
Employee Recruiting/Testing/Temp Help		\$1,469.50	3.27%	\$20,393.82	45.32% \$45,000.00
Fuel		\$85,655.75	5.30%	\$798,671.63	49.42% \$1,616,224.00
Lubricants		\$3,287.29	3.81%	\$22,928.61	26.57% \$86,285.00
Tires		\$3,473.99	5.63%	\$32,626.60	52.90% \$61,680.00
Bus Repair Parts		\$38,599.61	8.05%	\$423,845.62	88.42% \$479,362.00
Other Materials & Supplies		\$8,685.06	10.46%	\$67,425.53	81.24% \$83,000.00
Shelters/Signs/Shop Tools		\$980.95	4.90%	\$15,756.32	78.78% \$20,000.00
Computer and Office Supplies		\$18,524.58	4.25%	\$189,723.55	43.48% \$436,362.00
Utilities		\$15,341.62	11.89%	\$127,325.98	98.70% \$129,000.00
Corporate Insurance		\$56,178.11	10.65%	\$434,546.88	82.34% \$527,725.00
Dues/Subscriptions/Fees		\$1,341.95	3.01%	\$27,680.30	61.99% \$44,650.00
Printing/Marketing/Training		\$26,717.92	7.13%	\$216,237.03	57.69% \$374,850.00
Total Operating Expenses		\$1,449,527.75	7.65%	\$13,189,772.11	69.61% \$18,946,747.00
Operating Assistance					
Operating Deficit Before Subsidies and Grants		(\$1,318,488.91)	7.54%	(\$12,027,239.68)	68.75% (\$17,493,399.00)
City of Bloomington Operating Assistance		\$75,833.33	0.00%	\$682,499.97	0.00% \$0.00
Town of Normal Operating Assistance		\$49,166.66	0.00%	\$442,499.94	0.00% \$0.00
Illinois Downstate Operating Assistance		\$920,445.00	0.00%	\$8,309,280.00	0.00% \$0.00
FTA 5307 Operating Assistance		\$238,963.00	0.00%	\$2,242,144.00	0.00% \$0.00
Total Operating Assistance		\$1,284,407.99	0.00%	\$11,676,423.91	0.00% \$0.00



March 2024	Current Month	Month in Prior Year	Percent Change	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date	% Change YTD
System Statistics:						
System Ridership	200,572	190,838	5.10%	1,795,436	1,637,372	9.65%
Fixed Ridership	185,910	181,678	2.33%	1,666,062	1,562,781	6.61%
Mobility Ridership	9,869	9,160	7.74%	89,870	74,591	20.48%
FLEX Ridership	4,793	*	*	39,504	*	*
System Service Hours	14,586	13,633	6.99%	133,308	115,345	15.57%
Fixed Service Hours	9,358	9,554	-2.05%	87,903	82,307	6.80%
Mobility Service Hours	4,102	4,079	0.56%	36,648	33,038	10.93%
FLEX Service Hours	1,126	*	*	8,757	*	*
System Service Miles	176,531	164,680	7.20%	1,578,089	1,404,053	12.40%
Fixed Service Miles	112,625	115,133	-2.18%	1,029,242	1,002,875	2.63%
Mobility Service Miles	51,149	49,547	3.23%	452,383	401,178	12.76%
FLEX Service Miles	12,757	*	*	96,464	*	*
System Revenue Vehicles	61	55	10.91%	67	67	0.00%
Fixed Revenue Vehicles	34	36	-5.56%	40	48	-16.67%
Mobility Revenue Vehicles	22	19	15.79%	22	19	15.79%
FLEX Revenue Vehicles	5	*	*	5	*	*
System Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,894	2,994	-3.35%	23,554	20,956	12.40%
Fixed Miles/Revenue Vehicle	3,313	3,198	3.58%	25,731	20,893	23.15%
Mobility Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,325	2,608	-10.84%	20,563	21,115	-2.61%
FLEX Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,551	*	*	19,293	*	*
System Efficiencies:						
System Ridership/Service Hour	13.75	14.00	-1.77%	13.47	14.20	-5.12%
Fixed Ridership/Revenue Hour	19.87	19.02	4.47%	18.95	18.99	-0.18%
Mobility Ridership/Revenue Hour	2.41	2.25	7.14%	2.45	2.26	8.62%
FLEX Ridership/Revenue Hour	4.26	*	*	4.51	*	*
System Percent On-Time Trips	91.90%	91.34%	0.62%	91.97%	93.35%	-1.49%
Fixed Percent On-Time Trips	94%	91%	3.30%	92%	93%	-1.35%
Mobility Percent On-Time Trips	97%	98%	-1.02%	97%	98%	-1.13%
FLEX Percent On-Time Trips	0%	*	*	84%	*	*
System Subsidy/Passenger	\$6.93	\$6.60	4.96%	\$6.78	\$6.83	-0.71%
Fixed Subsidy/Passenger	\$5.46	\$5.31	2.75%	\$5.53	\$5.50	0.62%
Mobility Subsidy/Passenger	\$31.24	\$32.16	-2.87%	\$26.77	\$34.78	-23.03%
FLEX Subsidy/Passenger	\$13.89	*	*	\$14.10	*	*
Operator Pay Hours/Service Hour	1.29	1.39	-7.54%	1.28	1.37	-6.15%
Vehicle Maintenance Expense/Mile	\$0.94	\$0.93	1.02%	\$1.06	\$0.99	7.15%



600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20001

Monthly Federal Update for Connect Transit

Prepared by Cardinal Infrastructure

Prepared April 17, 2024

Congressional Update

The House and Senate having wrapped up Fiscal Year 2024 funding are now moving on to FY25. The House is getting a later start due to the resignation of Kay Granger from her position as chair of the House Committee on Appropriations. The Republican Conference selected Tom Cole of Oklahoma as the new Chairman. Chairman Cole is yet to provide guidance to House Members regarding Congressional Spending project requests.

As a result most House offices have not provided direction for submitting requests. The Senate on the other hand has begun to move forward with their appropriations process with most Senators setting deadlines earlier this month for project submissions.

The late start of the appropriations process and the upcoming presidential and congressional elections will likely mean final funding decisions will be put off until after the elections in November. Congress has limited days in session between now and the end of the fiscal year in September. Look for late November and December to be very busy legislatively.

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.

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.



600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20001

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

May 16, 2024, by 5 PM ET: Sole deadline for Implementation Grants. Deadline #2 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

August 29, 2024, by 5 PM ET: Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. FY24 NOFO closes.

FTA publishes updated National Public Transportation Safety Plan

The FTA released an [updated version of the National Public Transportation Safety Plan](#) with new provisions addressing requirements in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These include seven new safety performance measures, eight new requirements for safety risk reduction programs, and an updated list of voluntary minimum safety standards and recommended practices.

DOT issues DBE final rule

The Department of Transportation published [updated rules on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise regulations](#). The new rules update personal net worth and program size thresholds to account for inflation, modernizes rules for counting material supplies, formalizes COVID-19 flexibilities, gives more flexibility in certification provisions, and updates sections of the text that have created confusion for recipients, applicants, and participants.

Joint Office for Energy and Transportation

Together with DOE's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) program, the Joint Office for Energy and Transportation has launched the [Public Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Charging Infrastructure Playbook](#) that includes interactive features to assist planners in the development and building of infrastructure that supports the transition to zero-emission transportation.

Environmental Protection Agency

More than 30 House and Senate Democrats have [sent a letter](#) urging EPA to tighten air pollution standards for locomotive engines to protect the health of rail workers and fenceline communities. Led by Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey, EPA's current locomotive emissions standards have not been updated since 2008, and half of existing locomotives, as of 2016, have no standards for any pollutants." The letter also asked DOT and EPA to prioritize union labor in rail grant awards.

Transit-Oriented Development

On April 2nd, FTA announced [\\$17.6 million going to 20 communities](#) to support transit-oriented development. These grants, funded by FTA's Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning, support local strategies to increase transit access and encourage ridership through mixed-use and mixed-income development near public transportation projects.



TO: Connect Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Cornerstone Government Affairs – Illinois Team
SUBJECT: Legislative Update
DATE: April 23, 2024

Summary

This month, our team coordinated meetings with Representative Chung and Senator Koehler during Connect’s visit to Springfield for the Illinois Public Transportation Association Advocacy Day. This allowed Connect to further discuss recent project updates and priorities moving forward. The team also met with Speaker Welch to discuss the release of the capital funding for the transfer center project and received a call after that meeting from the House Budget Director to seek further information.

Additionally, our team prepared a comprehensive update for Connect regarding the current status of the VW Settlement funds and a recently announced IEPA grant opportunity for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Looking ahead to the final month of the spring session, we are 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, Bob Morgan, Will Guzzardi, Abdelnasser Rashid, Joyce Mason, Tracy Katz Muhl, Lilian Jiménez and Michelle Mussman

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
4/5/2024	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules 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
4/5/2024	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

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
4/5/2024	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

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

Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr. and Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez

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
4/17/2024	House	Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading - Short Debate

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-Sonya M. Harper and Barbara Hernandez

Senate Sponsors

()

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
4/18/2024	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of First Reading April 30, 2024

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
4/5/2024	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

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 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

103rd ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Illinois Senate placed 90 Senate Bills on an Agreed [Bill](#) List to allow expedited passage by voting on all the legislation on one roll call.

The Illinois Senate unanimously approved [SB 2643](#) (D. Turner), which tightens identification standards for human remains that are being handled by funeral homes and enhances punishment for businesses that break the law. A Carlinville funeral home’s mishandling of human remains prompted the bill. SB 2643 now heads to the House.

Also receiving unanimous approval in the Senate was [SB 3463](#) (Peters), which streamlines the expungement process for youth involved with the juvenile court systems. The bill now goes before the full House.

[SB 3678](#) (Stadelman), which bans speculative ticket selling and provides enhanced transparency on the sale of tickets, passed the Senate unanimously and heads to the House.

[SB 773](#) (Castro) which mandates insurance coverage for infertility passed the Senate 50-1 and now goes before the House.

Combatting electronic stalking – by designating it as a method of criminal stalking – is the focus of [SB 2683](#) (Stadelman). The House will now consider the measure, having passed from the Senate unanimously.

Those remodeling or improving homes in areas of urban decay may qualify for certain expanded property tax breaks under [SB 2936](#) (Koehler), which the Senate passed without opposition and the House will now consider.

The Illinois Senate unanimously approved [SB 2697](#) (Morrison), requiring insurance companies in Illinois to cover genetic testing for those patients with a family history of cancer. It would cap out-of-pocket costs at \$50; Illinois Medicaid patients would be covered with no out-of-pocket costs. The measure heads to the House.

Legislation to curb youth vaping is headed to the House. [SB 2662](#) (Morrison) prohibits the advertising, marketing or promoting of an electronic cigarette in a manner that is likely to cause an adult to mistake

it for an object that is not a tobacco product. [SB 3098](#) (Loughran Cappel) prohibits electronic cigarettes purchased by mail, online or through other remote sale methods from being shipped to anyone in the state other than a distributor or retailer. Both bills passed the Senate unanimously and now head to the House for consideration.

The creation of an electronic registry to store treatment preferences for critically ill individuals would be mandated by [SB 2644](#) (Morrison), which the Senate passed unanimously. Under the bill, the electronic registry would contain Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment forms, which detail medical treatment wishes for critically ill patients (currently, POLST forms can be maintained in hard copy or electronic format through the Secretary of State's office). Because SB 2644 would establish a single location to hold all POLST forms, physicians throughout the state could more easily access the information. SB 2644 now heads to the House.

The Illinois Senate approved [SB 2876](#) (Villa) which creates the Large Event Recycling and Composting Law. Under the bill, large event facilities – defined as having a capacity of at least 3,000 persons and that receives funding from the State – must participate in the county's recycling program and send recyclable materials to a recycling center. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 42-16 and now heads to the House.

[SB 2979](#) (Cunningham) makes changes to the liability guidelines in the Biometric Information Privacy Act. Specifically, liability faced by the business would accrue on a per-employee basis, rather than a per-collection basis. The legislation also allows the use of electronic signatures as a means of granting written consent. Having passed the Senate 46-13, the bill is now before the House. Read more [here](#).

Legislation to prohibit a consumer reporting agency from making a credit report containing any adverse information about the consumer related to medical debt - [SB 2933](#) (Stadelman) – passed the Senate unanimously and now heads to the House.

Creation of the Department of Early Childhood took one more step toward becoming a reality when the Senate unanimously passed [SB 1](#) (Lightford). Designed to be the lead agency for early childhood education and care programs and services to families, the IDEC would exist only after a two year phase-out/transfer of early childhood programs from ISBE, DCFS and DHS. The measure now heads to the House.

By a vote of 41-13, the Senate approved [SB 2764](#) (Turner) -- which, as amended, addresses automatic renewal on free trial or promotional services. Technet opposes the measure, arguing that as currently drafted, it makes Illinois “an outlier” compared to other states' policies on free trials. The sponsor said she will continue to work on the legislation in the House, where the bill is now headed.

Having passed the Senate unanimously, [SB 2639](#) (Hastings) now will be considered by the House. The legislation ensures that insurance companies will provide coverage for doctor-recommended infertility treatments without requiring patients to complete treatments that were deemed ineffective by their

doctor. The bill would also allow a licensed physician to immediately approve any of these procedures based on the covered patient's medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, physical findings, or diagnostic testing.

Adjustments to a 2021 law reducing the use of restraints and isolated time out in schools is the focus of SFA # 1 to [SB 458](#) (Gillespie), approved by the Senate Executive Committee. The amendment gives schools 7 years (currently 3 years) to make the transition, provides for additional training for school personnel and provides for additional investigative oversight to allow for enhanced tracking. The sponsor pledged to continue negotiating to address the opposition. SFA # 1 passed the committee 9-5 and heads to the full Senate.

Legislation to regulate the sale of hemp products was filed this week. Specifically, [SB 3926](#) (Lightford) would create a regulatory framework for hemp consumer products and establish standards for licensing, testing and labeling similar to cannabis products. It would also prohibit synthetic intoxicants like Delta-8 and Delta-10 until a state committee could study and review product safety. SB 3926 was referred to the Senate Assignments Committee. Read more [here](#).

Creation of a battery recycling stewardship program would be required of businesses that sell or distribute batteries under [SB 3686](#) (Koehler), which the Senate passed without opposition. The program would have to be in place by 2026 for small to medium-sized batteries (medium-sized batteries would include batteries made for electric bikes and electric scooters). By 2029, businesses must include appropriate labeling for all batteries to ensure proper collection and recycling. The bill now heads to the House.

Member Resignations: Two Illinois Legislators are leaving their respective chambers. Senator Ann Gillespie was appointed recently by Governor Pritzker to serve as the new Director of the Department of Insurance. She replaces Dana Popish Severinghaus who stepped down April 15. Gillespie is expected to resign in the coming days and local Democrats will appoint her replacement for the 27th Senate District. Because Gillespie was elected to a four-year term and has more than 28 months remaining, the appointee will be required under Illinois law to run in a special election this November. Both Representatives Mark Walker and Mary Beth Canty have expressed an interest in the appointment. Other candidates could emerge as well. Read more [here](#).

Republican Representative Tim Ozinga abruptly resigned from the Illinois House on recently. Local Republicans will select his replacement for the 37th House District.

2024 Key Dates and Session Deadlines:

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:

IDPH Offers Reproductive Health Grants: The Illinois Department of Public Health awarded \$2 million to three different organizations to provide training that will increase access to abortions across the state. The Abortion Provider Capacity Building Grant Program awarded grants to the Midwest Access Project (MAP), Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL), and the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing.

Midwest Access Project: MAP will expand their long-standing work providing sexual and reproductive healthcare clinicians with training in procedural and medication abortion. Their innovative training model fills gaps nationwide in medical education, advanced practice nursing, midwifery education, and clinical training.

Planned Parenthood of Illinois: PPIL plans to expand upon an already robust training effort by offering more procedural abortion training for physician trainees and advance practice nurses, and medication abortion training for eligible providers.

UIC – College of Nursing: UIC will establish a training program to expose new advanced practice nurses to abortion care through the Reproductive Advocacy and Diversity in Advanced Nursing Training (RADIANT) Fellowship.

Grocery Store Initiative Grants: A new grant opportunity, called the New Stores in Food Deserts Program, is being offered by the Illinois Grocery Initiative. The first phase of the initiative supported equipment upgrades for existing independently owned grocers; this second phase will offer grants to open new grocery stores in food deserts. Grants will range between \$160K to \$2.4M and the recipient is required to put up matching funds equal to one-third of the grant. Read more [here](#).

Electric Vehicle Charging: The Illinois EPA awarded \$25.1 million to 20 applicants for electric vehicle charging infrastructure under the [Driving a Cleaner Illinois](#) program. The grants will fund 643 new Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) ports at 141 locations throughout the state. Read more [here](#).

Botulism-Like Cases Reported in Illinois: The Illinois Department of Public Health is urging healthcare facilities, particularly emergency rooms, to be on a heightened lookout for patients with symptoms similar to botulism. The warning follows two cases of the disease reported in La Salle County, where both individuals received injections of Botox (or a similar, possibly counterfeit) product. IDPH is investigating, in collaboration with the LaSalle County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. The CDC and FDA have been contacted about the situation. The Tennessee Department of Health has also reported a similar cluster. Read more [here](#).

Gubernatorial Appointments: Governor Pritzker appointed the following:

- John Pady will serve as a Member of the Energy Workforce Advisory Council.

- Danny Silverthorn will continue to serve as a Member of the State Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees.

OTHER NEWS:

Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough died recently. Yarbrough served as a State Representative from 2001 through 2012. The Cook County Democratic Central Committee will appoint her replacement. Because she was less than two years into her four-year term, a special election will be held in November.

State Employee Health Insurance: State employee health insurance costs registered the largest single-year increase in several years, according to a new report from the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. The state is facing a 16.5% increase (or \$533 million), COGFA finds, and suggests that the spike is due in part to new coverage mandates that lawmakers have enacted in recent years – including “medications not otherwise guaranteed to be covered, such as certain weight-loss medications.” Read the full report [here](#).



MEMO

Date: April 23, 2024
To: Board of Trustees
From: David Braun, General Manager
Brady Lange, Procurement Director
Subject: Microgrid Feasibility Report

Background:

With the initiation of zero emission buses, the Connect Transit Leadership Team began to think about what we would do if the power supply was cut off for any reason. Our power system is set up to accommodate a large diesel generator, and we have an agreement with Altorfer Equipment to supply a sufficiently sized generator in the event of a power outage. However, we expect there will be a lag between the outage and the delivery of the generator that could be fulfilled by other means.

We also found that there are times when we need to charge a bus during the power company's peak rate period, for maintenance and diagnostics, as well as to prepare a bus for later service. The cost of peak power is significantly higher than off-peak rates. We began considering solutions to reduce that cost. Our concept to meet both resiliency and cost savings was a solar/battery microgrid built on land we already own to the west of our garage. I floated the idea to some of our partners for consideration.

In January 2023, Michael Brown with the Ecology Action Center introduced me to James Lang, with Siemens. Michael was aware of our interest in developing solar charging for our buses and offered James as a resource. I reached out to James to set up a meeting including Brady for Connect, and Chris Cummings for Siemens to discuss our thoughts and the concept. They provided considerable information that led us to think our project was feasible, but we understood that impressions were not enough.

We contracted with Siemens for a three-phase project that could be cancelled at any time between phases.

- The first phase was feasibility: Given our power requirements, could a solar/battery microgrid be built on our five acre property provide sufficient energy to charge our buses?
- The second phase was equipment: What would it take in terms of solar panels and battery size to provide sufficient charging capacity for our buses?
- The third phase was financial: Is it financially feasible from a cost/benefit perspective to pursue the project?

Based on their analysis, Siemens determined that the project is indeed feasible with equipment that would provide a positive benefit for the cost of development.

We are entering a fourth phase that was not planned for but welcomed. We have applied for two grants to fund the project and have received interest from our Federal and State legislators.

Discussion:

Siemens will present the project to the Board for the Trustees' information and to develop an understanding of the potential project benefits.



MEMO

Date: April 23, 2024
To: Board of Trustees
From: David Braun, General Manager
Brady Lange, Procurement Director
Subject: 2024 – 2027 Connect Transit Strategic Business Plan

Recommendation:

Approve the 2024 – 2027 Connect Transit Strategic Business Plan as presented.

Background:

Connect Transit's strategic plan represents a culmination of efforts reaching back to the transit system's 2021 strategic goals, recognition of recommendations made by the Connect to the Future group in 2019, recognition of workplace changes and operational challenges in a post COVID environment, as well as the growing manufacturing industries in the area.

In 2022, the Board of Trustees met to discuss the future of public transit in Bloomington-Normal. From those discussions, in March 2023 and August 2023, staff made presentations to the Board regarding the financial outlook for public transit and methods to enhance the passenger experience that met the broad vision discussions. The Board met again in early 2024, with information in hand, to further define and prioritize the work that was initiated earlier.

Discussion:

Our approach to strategic planning involved discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of the system and opportunities and threats facing the system, and the recognition of the momentum of transit in the past years due to the \$50+ million in grant funds awarded and the associated projects which need to be completed because of those grant funds. At the root of the plan is our desire to invest those grant funds and operate our services to the benefit of our passengers, community partners, funding partners, and all residents of our service area, while continually demonstrating the value of Connect Transit, Mobility, and FLEX in Bloomington, Normal, and the region.

Financial Impact:

The plan itself does not have a financial impact, however, individual projects associated with the plan may, and will be proposed to the Board as required, and through the annual budget process.