

**CONNECT TRANSIT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PROCEEDINGS OF JUNE 28, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Connect Transit was held at the Connect Transit Board Room #135, 351 Wylie Drive, Normal, Illinois 61761 on June 28, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Mike McCurdy, Vice-Chairman
 Ryan Whitehouse, Secretary
 John Bowman
 John Thomas

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Bill Wilson, Chairman
 Judy Buchanan
 Jennifer McDade

CITY MANAGERS: Mark Peterson, Town of Normal Manager

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Johnson, General Manager
 Julie Beer, Executive Assistant
 Kyle Boehm, Planner
 Melissa Chrisman, Marketing and Business Development Manager

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:49 p.m. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting of May 24, 2016
2. Disbursements for Month of May, 2016
3. Financial Report for Month of May, 2016
4. Capital and Self Insurance Reserve Fund Balances for month of May, 2016
5. Monthly Statistical Report for month of May, 2016

Motion by Trustee John Bowman, seconded by Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy that the Consent Agenda be approved.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of “Tripper Route” and schedule to provide the “First Mile, Last Mile” solution to areas affected by route changes as a result of the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA)

Andrew Johnson, General Manager introduced this item. Staff had worked through a number of iterations of what could be done to solve the “first mile/last mile” service reduction to those residents in north Normal and south Bloomington. In addition, there have been several public outreach opportunities and discussions. Staff has concluded that the proposed “Tripper Route” will satisfy the concerns surrounding the service reduction to the impacted residents. Kyle Boehm, Connect Transit’s Planner would provide further explanation.

Kyle Boehm, Planner, addressed the Board. He provided an overview of the following proposed “Tripper Route” and schedule:

Based on the input, data, and surveys collected at the two listening sessions, June 14, 2016 at Danbury Court Apartments, and June 15, 2016 at Prairieland Elementary, and on the bus surveys collected along the affected sections of the Blue E and Aqua K on Thursday, June 16, 2016, the following service is recommended to be implemented in coordination with the COA route changes for a period of six (6) months for evaluation:

Aqua K – Affected Area

Danbury (Bainbridge & Essington) to Oak Valley Rd & Main St			
Bainbridge & Essington	Oak Valley Rd & Main St	Connections	Days of Operation
7:00 AM	7:15:00 AM*	*Connect with Aqua, departing Greyhound & Southgate at 7:15	Weekdays Only
8:25 AM	8:40:00 AM*	*Connect with Aqua, departing Greyhound & Southgate at 8:45	All
12:00 PM	12:45:00 PM*	*Connect with Aqua, departing Greyhound & Southgate at 12:45	All

Oak Valley Rd & Main St to Danbury (Bainbridge & Essington)			
Bainbridge & Essington	Oak Valley Rd & Main St	Connections	Days of Operation
12:50 PM*	1:05 PM	*Connect with Aqua, departing Greyhound & Southgate at 12:45	All
5:50 PM*	6:05 PM	*Connect with Aqua, departing Greyhound & Southgate at 5:45	All
6:15: PM*	6:30 PM	*Connect with Aqua, departing Greyhound & Southgate	Weekdays

		at 6:15	Only
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Blue E – Affected Area

Shelbourne & Henry to School & Northfield			
Shelbourne & Henry	School & Northfield	Connections	Days of Operation
6:25 AM	6:40 AM*	*Connect with Pink, departing School & Northfield at 6:45	Weekdays Only
7:50 AM	8:05 AM*	*Connect with Pink, departing School & Northfield at 8:15	All

School & Northfield to Henry & Shelbourne			
School & Northfield	Henry & Shelbourne	Connections	Days of Operation
5:15 PM*	5:30 PM	*Connect with Pink, departing School & Northfield at 5:15	All

Trustee John Bowman questioned if there would be only a single vehicle running for these proposed routes. Mr. Boehm affirmed, noting there would be one (1) service that would be running between north Normal and south Bloomington. Connect Transit would use a 30 foot bus initially, and reevaluate needs after six (6) months.

Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy questioned if the proposal was a six (6) month pilot program. Andrew Johnson, General Manager affirmed. An update and additional vote would appear as an agenda item in six (6) months.

Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy stated he was impressed with the outreach that Connect Transit has conducted, in seeking public input on this issue.

Kyle Boehm, Planner stated staff would return to the Board in six (6) months with information regarding usage, and the times that the “Tripper” service was most utilized.

Mark Peterson, Town of Normal Manager, stated he was satisfied with this proposal. He appreciated the Board’s willingness to try and bridge the gap, as well as the work Connect Transit staff has put into finding a solution. The “Tripper” will allow the people in areas with reduced service to continue using the system.

Melissa Chrisman, Marketing and Business Development Manager addressed the Board. She described the different ways Connect Transit would be promoting the new route structure.

Motion by Trustee John Bowman, seconded by Trustee John Thomas that the “Tripper Route” and schedule to provide the “First Mile, Last Mile” solution to areas affected by route changes as a result of the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) be approved.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Andrew Johnson, General Manager stated the new fareboxes have been rolled out and it has been a smooth transition. All of the public outreach ensured that riders would know how to use them. The fareboxes are easy to use.

The new routes are set to be rolled out in August.

The new propane fueled Mobility buses are due to be delivered in August. A propane fueling station will be installed soon.

As of today, there is no stop-gap budget passed by the State of Illinois. Staff is keeping an eye on funds; however, Connect Transit is in good shape.

Trustee John Bowman questioned the nature of Mr. Johnson's meeting with Jim Karch, Public Works Director for the City of Bloomington. Mr. Johnson responded the City of Bloomington inquired regarding the Oakland Avenue building. There has been preliminary discussion regarding a more suitable Downtown Bloomington transfer point.

There would be public hearings for the proposed fare structure on June 29, 2016 at the Bloomington Government Center and again on July 13, 2016 at Uptown Station in Normal. He encouraged the Board to attend.

TRUSTEE'S COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee John Thomas, Seconded by Trustee John Bowman to adjourn.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Time: 5:32 p.m.

Ryan Whitehouse, Secretary