



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

October 24, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.

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

YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/KOID3CSZsoY?feature=share>

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
 - a. Attendance by Other Means/Virtual – Roll Call Vote
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Comments
- E. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Regular Session Minutes for September 26, 2023
 - b. Approval of Executive Session Minutes for September 26, 2023
 - c. Approval of Financial Information for September 2023
 - d. Monthly Statistical Reports for September 2023
 - e. Cardinal Infrastructure Federal Report
 - f. Cornerstone – Illinois Weekly Update
- F. New Business
 - a. Attendance by Other Means for Executive Session Discussion – Informational
 - b. APTA Transit Board Member Seminar Recap – Informational
- G. Chairman’s Report
- H. General Manager’s Report
- I. Trustee Comments
- J. Executive Session
 - a. (ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Personnel Matters
- K. 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.



September 2023

Financial Reports



Connect Transit Cash Disbursement Report September 2023

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
1st Ayd Corporation	00057764	08-Sep-23	\$863.49	Cleaning Supplies
A.T.U. - C.O.P.E.	00057765	08-Sep-23	\$458.24	Payroll Deduction
ABC Bus Companies	00057766	08-Sep-23	\$171.98	Bus Parts
ABC Bus Companies	00057823	22-Sep-23	\$4,732.20	Bus Parts
Advance Auto Parts	00057768	08-Sep-23	\$946.02	Maintenance Supplies
Advance Auto Parts	00057824	22-Sep-23	\$519.52	Maintenance Supplies
Airgas USA, LLC	00057769	08-Sep-23	\$97.96	Welding Supplies
Airgas USA, LLC	00057825	22-Sep-23	\$519.50	Welding Supplies
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00057770	08-Sep-23	\$7,739.60	Payroll Deduction
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 752	00057826	22-Sep-23	\$250.00	Payroll Deduction
Amazon Capital Service	00057771	08-Sep-23	\$1,402.29	Computer Hardware and Office Supplies
Amazon Capital Service	00057827	22-Sep-23	\$101.48	Bus Parts, Computer Hardware, Matierials & Supplies & Office Supplies
Ancel Glink, P.C.	00057828	22-Sep-23	\$666.25	Legal Service
Aramark Uniform Services	00057772	08-Sep-23	\$243.79	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Aramark Uniform Services	00057829	22-Sep-23	\$583.54	Cleaning Uniforms & Rugs
Assurance Agency, Ltd.	00057773	08-Sep-23	\$113,637.00	Insurance
Assurance Agency, Ltd.	00057830	22-Sep-23	\$210,977.00	Insurance
BASIC Benefits	00057774	08-Sep-23	\$206.95	Consulting
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois	00057831	22-Sep-23	\$141,471.00	Insurance
Blue Springs, Inc	00057775	08-Sep-23	\$410.00	Portable Restrooms
Blue Springs, Inc	00057832	22-Sep-23	\$225.00	Portable Restrooms
Brian Thomas	00057776	08-Sep-23	\$68.48	Uniform Reimbursement
Carle	00057833	22-Sep-23	\$135.75	Physicals & Drug Testing
CDM Smith Inc.	00057777	08-Sep-23	\$7,449.35	Consulting
Central Illinois Trucks Inc.	00057778	08-Sep-23	\$6,494.75	Bus Parts
Central Illinois Trucks Inc.	00057834	22-Sep-23	\$2,086.87	Bus Parts
Checkr, Inc.	00057835	22-Sep-23	\$248.94	New Hire Background Checks
ChemStation of Indiana	00057779	08-Sep-23	\$1,523.50	Garage Supplies
Chris Coleman	00057836	22-Sep-23	\$81.54	Tool Allowowance
Chubb	00057881	29-Sep-23	\$1,385.00	Insurance
CIRBN, LLC	00057837	22-Sep-23	\$147.13	Internet
City of Bloomington	00057780	08-Sep-23	\$828.55	Utilities
City of Bloomington	00057838	22-Sep-23	\$137.97	Utilities
Clark Baird Smith, LLP	00057839	22-Sep-23	\$2,641.75	Legal Service
Corn Belt Energy Corp.	00057840	22-Sep-23	\$12,607.43	Utilities
Cummins Sales and Service	00057841	22-Sep-23	\$2,065.21	Bus Parts
Cummins Sales and Service	ACH	27-Sep-23	\$123,270.82	Bus Mid-life Overhaul
Don Owen Tire Service, Inc.	00057781	08-Sep-23	\$549.18	Bus Parts
Dovetail, Inc.	00057842	22-Sep-23	\$903.00	Consulting
Eagle Automotive	00057782	08-Sep-23	\$955.88	Bus Parts
Eagle Automotive	00057843	22-Sep-23	\$717.33	Bus Parts
Edelman Electric, Inc.	00057783	08-Sep-23	\$3,140.73	Building Maintenance
Engraving Express	00057784	08-Sep-23	\$427.50	Driver's Uniforms
Engraving Express	00057844	22-Sep-23	\$69.50	Driver's Uniforms
Evergreen FS	00057785	08-Sep-23	\$720.90	Fuel
Galls, LLC	00057786	08-Sep-23	\$2,237.18	Uniforms
Genfare, LLC	ACH	01-Sep-23	\$40.00	Genfare Refund
Genfare, LLC	00057787	08-Sep-23	\$23,576.53	Software and Hardware
Genfare, LLC	00057845	22-Sep-23	\$92.25	Software and Hardware
Genfare, LLC	ACH	28-Sep-23	\$50.00	Genfare Refund
Gerber Collision	00057788	08-Sep-23	\$4,168.99	Body Shop
Gillig LLC	00057789	08-Sep-23	\$1,828.59	Bus Parts
Global Industrial	00057790	08-Sep-23	\$105.94	Garage Supplies
Government Finance Officers Association	00057791	08-Sep-23	\$280.00	Dues & Subscriptions
Great Plains Media	00057792	08-Sep-23	\$1,600.00	Radio Advertising
Illinois Department of Revenue	00057793	08-Sep-23	\$17,162.27	Payroll Deduction
Illinois Department of Revenue	00057846	22-Sep-23	\$17,233.89	Payroll Deduction
Illinois Department of Revenue	00057878	22-Sep-23	\$6.07	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement Unit	00057794	08-Sep-23	\$1,522.18	Payroll Deduction
Illinois State Disbursement Unit	00057847	22-Sep-23	\$1,522.18	Payroll Deduction
Jared Simons	00057795	08-Sep-23	\$125.15	Travel Reimbursement
John Born	00057849	22-Sep-23	\$108.36	Driver's Uniforms



Connect Transit Cash Disbursement Report September 2023

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
Julie Hile	00057880	27-Sep-23	\$1,366.80	Travel Reimbursement
Julie Holts	00057796	08-Sep-23	\$54.35	Uniform Reimbursement
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00057797	08-Sep-23	\$45,741.90	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Ken's Oil Service, Inc	00057850	22-Sep-23	\$28,337.05	Bus Parts, Fuel & Lubricants
Kim Krug	00057851	22-Sep-23	\$72.30	Uniform Reimbursement
Lewis, Yockey & Brown, Inc	00057852	22-Sep-23	\$4,400.00	Bus Stop Engineering
LIFTOFF	00057798	08-Sep-23	\$13,860.00	Computer Software
Luminator Technology Group, Inc.	00057799	08-Sep-23	\$952.20	Bus Parts
Luminator Technology Group, Inc.	00057853	22-Sep-23	\$1,001.69	Bus Parts
Mark O'Daniel	00057854	22-Sep-23	\$54.36	Uniform Reimbursement
McLean County Chamber of Commerce	00057855	22-Sep-23	\$150.00	Advertising- Promotions
McLean County Recorder	00057856	22-Sep-23	\$380.00	Bus Shelters
Menards	00057800	08-Sep-23	\$176.46	Materials & Supplies
Menards	00057857	22-Sep-23	\$424.93	Materials & Supplies
Michelin North America, Inc	00057801	08-Sep-23	\$24.68	Tires
Midwest Equipment II	00057802	08-Sep-23	\$254.62	Lawn Maintenance Equipment
Midwest Equipment II	00057858	22-Sep-23	\$73.40	Lawn Maintenance Equipment
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00057803	08-Sep-23	\$1,372.56	Bus Parts
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	00057859	22-Sep-23	\$350.19	Bus Parts
Miller Janitor Supply	00057804	08-Sep-23	\$197.20	Maintenance Supplies
MINONK NAPA	00057805	08-Sep-23	\$482.44	Bus Parts
MINONK NAPA	00057860	22-Sep-23	\$114.16	Bus Parts
Missionsquare	ACH	7-Sep-23	\$35,403.14	Retirement Payment
Missionsquare	ACH	22-Sep-23	\$34,903.82	Retirement Payment
Mohawk Mfg. & Supply Co.	00057806	08-Sep-23	\$2,217.22	Bus Parts
Mohawk Mfg. & Supply Co.	00057861	22-Sep-23	\$2,557.60	Bus Parts
Morris Avenue Garage	00057807	08-Sep-23	\$320.00	Vehicle Inspection
Morris Avenue Garage	00057862	22-Sep-23	\$160.00	Vehicle Inspection
Mutual of Omaha	00057863	22-Sep-23	\$17,394.83	Life, AD&D, STD & LTD
NAACP Bloomington/Normal Branch	00057763	06-Sep-23	\$400.00	Event
Napa Auto Parts	00057808	08-Sep-23	\$191.90	Bus Parts
Nicor Gas	00057809	08-Sep-23	\$223.13	Utilities
O'Reilly Auto Parts	00057810	08-Sep-23	\$65.17	Bus Parts
OSF Medical Group - Occupational Health	00057864	22-Sep-23	\$440.00	Drug Testing
Pantagraph	00057811	08-Sep-23	\$6,372.34	Advertising- Promotions
Payroll	ACH	07-Sep-23	\$276,863.11	
Payroll	ACH	21-Sep-23	\$286,042.93	
Policemen's Benevolent & Protec. Assoc.	00057865	22-Sep-23	\$300.00	Employee Recognition
Proterra, Inc.	00057812	08-Sep-23	\$1,658.77	Bus Parts
Proterra, Inc.	00057866	22-Sep-23	\$658.08	Bus Parts
Republic Services # 368	00057813	08-Sep-23	\$615.53	Garbage Disposal
Roush CleanTech LLC	00057814	08-Sep-23	\$2,116.70	Bus Parts
Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc	00057867	22-Sep-23	\$331.20	Lubricant Waste Disposal
Scott Ropp	00057868	22-Sep-23	\$91.24	Uniform Reimbursement
Southtown Wrecker Service, Inc.,	00057815	08-Sep-23	\$770.00	Towing
Sportworks Northwest, Inc.	00057816	08-Sep-23	\$10,842.75	Bus Parts
Springfield Reprographics	00057869	22-Sep-23	\$1,700.00	Advertising- Promotions
Stratus Networks	00057817	08-Sep-23	\$3,300.92	Internet
SumnerOne, Inc.	00057870	22-Sep-23	\$1,225.69	Copier Lease
Surya Praneeth Korumilli	00057879	25-Sep-23	\$17.50	Bus Pass Refund
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00057818	08-Sep-23	\$11,111.37	Bus Parts
The Aftermarket Parts Company LLC	00057871	22-Sep-23	\$17,550.59	Bus Parts
The Copy Shop	00057872	22-Sep-23	\$173.40	Printing
Thermo King Quad Cities, Inc.	00057873	22-Sep-23	\$7,777.36	Bus Parts
Thomas Larson	00057819	08-Sep-23	\$21.74	Uniforms
Town of Normal	00057820	08-Sep-23	\$685.41	Utilites
TRAVELERS	00057874	22-Sep-23	\$651.07	Property Damage
Uline	00057821	08-Sep-23	\$139.62	Office Supplies
United States Treasury	ACH	11-Sep-23	\$94,107.32	Federal Tax Payment
United States Treasury	ACH	26-Sep-23	\$94,902.00	Federal Tax Payment
Verizon Wireless	00057822	08-Sep-23	\$3,767.21	Mobile Data Terminals
Via Mobility, LLC	00057875	22-Sep-23	\$2,401.06	Software Licensing
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	(\$180.80)	Cash Back Rebate
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$362.89	Mechanic Uniforms



Connect Transit
Cash Disbursement Report
September 2023

Name	Check Number	Date	Amount	Description
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$65.00	Support Vehicles
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$629.85	Building Maintenance
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$2,107.30	Advertising- Employment
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$672.77	Bus Parts
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$888.12	Bus Parts
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$15.98	Materials & Supplies
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$1,547.00	Office Equipment
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$479.13	Office Supplies
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$604.45	Software Licensing
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$1,480.62	Dues & Subscriptions
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$5,370.27	Travel & Meetings
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$593.16	Employee Recognition
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$2,066.01	Advertising- Promotions
VISA-Commerce Bank	00057762	05-Sep-23	\$1,197.51	Safety & Training
VSP of Illinois, NFP	00057876	22-Sep-23	\$994.73	Vision Insurance
Wherry Machine and Welding, Inc	00057877	22-Sep-23	\$64.54	Outside Repair
		Total	\$1,765,810.99	

Bloomington Normal Public Transit

Balance Sheet

Division: 99 Board Reports

As of: 9/30/2023

Fiscal Year: 2024 Period: 3 Sep-2023

Assets

Current Assets

Checking and Savings	\$6,007,227.30
Accounts Receivable	\$3,646,334.85
Inventory Asset - Fuel	\$28,496.84
Inventory Asset - Parts	\$365,239.78
Inventory Asset - Tires	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	\$491,385.10

Total Current Assets \$10,538,683.87

Fixed Assets \$31,938,269.08

Total Assets \$42,476,952.95

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$251,821.13
Payroll Liabilities	\$1,389,701.71
Contracts	\$0.00
Due to Illinois Funds Account	\$0.00
Deferred Revenue	\$437,894.54
Deficit Funding Advance	\$0.00

Total Liabilities \$2,079,417.38

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 \$21,143,590.18

Total Liabilities & Equity \$42,476,952.95

Bloomington Normal Public Transit Income Statement With Approved Budget

From Fiscal Year: 2024	From Period 3	Division: 98 Operating Profit/Loss		As of: 9/30/2023
Thru Fiscal Year: 2024	Thru Period 3	Sep-2023	Jul-2023	Approved Budget
		Sep-2023	Sep-2023	Approved Budget
Operating Revenue				
Passenger Fares		\$37,361.39	\$117,054.41	\$542,500.00
ISU Contract Fare		\$48,670.68	\$146,012.04	\$584,048.00
Other Contract Fares		\$20,075.58	\$64,176.27	\$200,000.00
Advertising Revenue		\$11,525.00	\$34,575.00	\$117,300.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		\$18,942.68	\$21,878.17	\$9,500.00
Total Operating Revenue		\$136,575.33	\$383,695.89	\$1,453,348.00
Operating Expenses				
Operators Wages		\$643,347.23	\$1,955,942.88	\$7,967,560.00
Maintenance Wages		\$105,752.52	\$316,179.44	\$1,573,647.00
Administration Wages		\$96,696.11	\$285,434.75	\$1,177,806.00
Employer Payroll Tax Expense		\$65,393.66	\$198,625.86	\$869,722.00
Retirement Plan		\$31,076.38	\$97,071.22	\$535,951.00
Group Insurance		\$160,621.77	\$504,779.63	\$2,237,512.00
Uniform Expense		\$7,853.57	\$14,369.68	\$63,375.00
Professional Services		\$17,560.28	\$59,535.92	\$223,500.00
Outside Repair-Labor		\$2,919.65	(\$1,480.30)	\$140,000.00
Contract Maintenance Services		\$1,260.11	\$19,494.50	\$234,476.00
Custodial Services		\$843.71	\$9,487.76	\$19,060.00
Employee Recruiting/Testing/Temp Help		\$1,582.87	\$6,379.21	\$45,000.00
Fuel		\$108,819.36	\$279,890.79	\$1,616,224.00
Lubricants		\$3,388.96	\$7,294.52	\$86,285.00
Tires		\$3,012.72	\$10,467.47	\$61,680.00
Bus Repair Parts		\$61,084.94	\$171,530.14	\$479,362.00
Other Materials & Supplies		\$5,919.91	\$18,209.02	\$83,000.00
Shelters/Signs/Shop Tools		\$484.87	\$4,142.80	\$20,000.00
Computer and Office Supplies		\$16,569.42	\$113,349.65	\$436,362.00
Utilities		\$12,414.20	\$29,345.04	\$129,000.00
Corporate Insurance		\$44,383.07	\$132,465.63	\$527,725.00
Dues/Subscriptions/Fees		\$3,146.79	\$19,151.44	\$44,650.00
Printing/Marketing/Training		\$19,949.00	\$78,751.17	\$374,850.00
Total Operating Expenses		\$1,414,081.10	\$4,330,418.22	\$18,946,747.00
Operating Assistance				
Operating Deficit Before Subsidies and Grants		(\$1,277,505.77)	(\$3,946,722.33)	(\$17,493,399.00)
City of Bloomington Operating Assistance		\$75,833.33	\$227,499.99	\$0.00
Town of Normal Operating Assistance		\$49,166.66	\$147,499.98	\$0.00
Illinois Downstate Operating Assistance		\$912,679.00	\$2,793,636.00	\$0.00
FTA 5307 Operating Assistance		\$195,106.00	\$735,595.00	\$0.00
Total Operating Assistance		\$1,232,784.99	\$3,904,230.97	\$0.00



September 2023		Current Month	Month in Prior Year	Percent Change	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date	% Change YTD
System Statistics:							
System Ridership		232,028	225,983	2.67%	580,014	514,601	12.71%
	Fixed Ridership	217,993	217,438	0.26%	539,866	490,122	10.15%
	Mobility Ridership	9,487	8,545	11.02%	32,096	24,479	31.12%
	FLEX Ridership	4,548	*	*	8,052	*	*
System Service Hours		14,464	13,097	10.44%	46,000	37,909	21.34%
	Fixed Service Hours	9,720	9,539	1.90%	30,682	27,183	12.87%
	Mobility Service Hours	3,835	3,558	7.79%	12,657	10,726	18.00%
	FLEX Service Hours	909	*	*	2,661	*	*
System Service Miles		177,525	162,672	9.13%	515,888	466,955	10.48%
	Fixed Service Miles	118,409	117,475	0.80%	337,657	335,562	0.62%
	Mobility Service Miles	48,623	45,197	7.58%	156,228	131,393	18.90%
	FLEX Service Miles	10,493	*	*	22,003	*	*
System Revenue Vehicles		53	56	-5.36%	57	58	-1.72%
	Fixed Revenue Vehicles	32	37	-13.51%	34	39	-12.82%
	Mobility Revenue Vehicles	16	19	-15.79%	18	19	-5.26%
	FLEX Revenue Vehicles	5	*	*	5	*	*
System Miles/Revenue Vehicle		3,350	2,905	15.31%	9,051	8,051	12.42%
	Fixed Miles/Revenue Vehicle	3,700	3,175	16.54%	9,931	8,604	15.42%
	Mobility Miles/Revenue Vehicle	3,039	2,379	27.75%	8,679	6,915	25.51%
	FLEX Miles/Revenue Vehicle	2,099	*	*	4,401	*	*
System Efficiencies:							
System Ridership/Service Hour		16.04	17.25	-7.03%	12.61	13.57	-7.11%
	Fixed Ridership/Revenue Hour	22.43	22.79	-1.61%	17.60	18.03	-2.41%
	Mobility Ridership/Revenue Hour	2.47	2.40	3.00%	2.54	2.28	11.11%
	FLEX Ridership/Revenue Hour	5.00	*	*	3.03	*	*
System Percent On-Time Trips		89.92%	93.19%	-3.50%	90.93%	94.52%	-3.80%
	Fixed Percent On-Time Trips	90%	93%	-3.55%	91%	94%	-3.99%
	Mobility Percent On-Time Trips	97%	98%	-1.07%	98%	98%	-0.69%
	FLEX Percent On-Time Trips	86%	*	*	89%	*	*
System Subsidy/Passenger		\$5.52	\$5.08	8.61%	\$6.86	\$6.68	2.57%
Operator Pay Hours/Service Hour		1.30	1.31	-0.41%	1.26	1.33	-5.02%
Vehicle Maintenance Expense/Mile		\$1.15	\$0.81	41.55%	\$1.17	\$0.84	40.22%

Monthly Federal Update for Connect Transit

Prepared by Cardinal Infrastructure

Prepared October 20, 2023

Congressional Update

The House continues to be gridlocked as it works to replace Representative Kevin McCarthy (CA-20) as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Congressman Jim Jordan (OH-04) is the latest nominee to put his name forward. After Kevin McCarthy was voted out of the position both Jordan and current House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (LA-01) announced their intentions to seek the office. It became obvious last week that Rep. Scalise did not have the votes to win the Speakership and he withdrew his nomination before a floor vote.

Since Scalise's announcement Jordan has become the front runner. He has spent the last week trying to secure enough votes within the Republican Conference to win a floor vote. There originally were a large number of Republican members that announced their opposition to his candidacy. A number of those, including a number of Republican Appropriators, have come around to support Jordan in the last few days.

Jordan did not garner enough support on the 1st ballot on Tuesday, falling twenty votes short of the 217 needed. The ability of any Republican to get the necessary 217 votes is in question, leaving the House without a means to move legislation.

What all this means for House business, and 2024 Appropriations specifically, moving forward is still unclear. One of the voiced concerns of the Republican members that ousted McCarthy was a desire to get back to regular order regarding Appropriations instead of omnibus bills and continuing resolutions (CR). The current temporary CR expires November 17th leaving virtually no time to pass the 12 separate Appropriation Bills thru Congress and be signed by the president. It would seem some sort of combined appropriation and/or CR will need to be agreed to by mid-November to avert a government shutdown.

APTA TRANSform Conference and Expo

The American Public Transportation Association held its annual TRANSform conference and product expo in Orlando, Florida in early October. With over 10,000 participants it was the largest meeting of the transit industry in the Western hemisphere. Much of the discussion by transit CEO's was focused on the shrinking of the transit vehicle manufacturing base, the challenges of meeting the aggressive zero emission goals under the IIJA, the pending "Fiscal Cliff" resulting from decreased federal and local funding, the operational challenges facing agencies with the presence of the unhoused and drug dependent population on many systems, and the proposed spending reductions contained in the House Transportation Appropriations bill for FY24 particularly for the Capital Investment Grant Program.

FTA Administrator, Nuria Fernandez spoke to the attendees about FTA's work to meet the President's goal of a zero-emission bus fleet by 2050. She emphasized the need for new innovations in procurement and the use of progress payments to maintain a healthy bus manufacturing sector. Fernandez reiterated the Administration's strong support for fully funding

the IJJA, especially the CIG program. She also encouraged agencies to utilize funding available from the Federal Highway Program's unobligated balances at the end of each fiscal year.

USDOT Updates

Bus-to-Person Collisions Safety Advisory

On September 19, 2023, FTA issued [Safety Advisory 23-1: Bus-to-Person Collisions](#) to recommend that transit agencies that provide bus service consider mitigation strategies to reduce bus-to-person collisions to help reduce the likelihood and severity of bus collisions with pedestrians, bicyclists and micro mobility users.

Data from the National Transit Database shows that bus-to-person collisions remain a top safety concern accounting for 15 percent of fatalities from 2008 to 2021, with left turns as a predominant risk focus area.

Bus and Bus Facilities and Low No Program NOFO

FTA will announce a NOFO for Bus and Bus Facilities and the Low No program in the near future. The timing of the NOFO's release is linked to Congress finalizing FY24 transportation funding, and that is hard to predict right now given the House's focus on other matters. All indications are that FTA will include some criteria designed to reduce bus customization in the coming NOFO. It will not be mandatory, but like labor, Justice 40, and workforce development criteria, if you don't have something in your application, you will likely not be as competitive.

RAISE Program NOFO

DOT is expected to announce the next round of available funding for the RAISE program before the end of 2023. RAISE is among the most competitive of grants administered by DOT as it can fund projects across all modes. DOT is stressing this year that they will prioritize multimodal projects. If an applicant was awarded a RAISE grant in the FY23 cycle, it is unlikely that they will receive an award for this upcoming cycle. Previous project examples can be [found here](#).

Regional Infrastructure Accelerators

The U.S. Department of Transportation [announced](#) another step forward in advancing critical transportation infrastructure projects across the United States by expanding the Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) program to 24 accelerators receiving \$24 million in new funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Administered by the Build America Bureau, the RIA program accelerates project delivery and clears barriers for credit-worthy projects by funding and encouraging best practices in project planning, studies and analysis, preliminary engineering, and design.

USDOT Resources

USDOT unveiled several new technical assistance resources to help grant applicants better prepare for submitting applications.

- [Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements](#)
- [Grant Application Checklist for a Strong Transportation Workforce and Labor Plan](#)

- [Checklist for a Strong Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Grant Application](#)
- [Federal Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status](#)
- [What Is a Benefit-Cost Analysis \(BCA\)?](#)
- [Use of DOT Funds for Public Involvement](#)



TO: Connect Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Cornerstone Government Affairs – Illinois Team
SUBJECT: Legislative Update
DATE: October 24th, 2023

Summary

This month, our team continued to follow up with House leadership and staff regarding the release of Connect’s appropriation. We will continue to keep Connect updated moving forward.

We have followed up on Connect’s request to meet with IMA President Mark Denzler and have spoken to Mark about our solar project.

We also understand Connect’s concerns regarding the paid leave legislation that passed in Spring 2022 and the impact that it would have on providing sufficient staffing for transportation services. We reached out to the Illinois Public Transportation Association (IPTA) and the Illinois Municipal League (IML) to discuss their strategy for this policy and how we may be able to work in coordination. We connected with Connect’s local legislators to share concerns. Moving into Veto Session, we will continue discussions with stakeholders on this legislation to work towards a solution.

Bill Tracking

Please note only active bills and newly filed bills are included below.

Abbreviated Bill List

Bill	Sponsor	Title	Date of Last Action	Current Chamber	Last Action
HB148	Emanuel "Chris" Welch	\$EX IG AG-TECH	3/16/2023	House	Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading - Short Debate **
HB219	Jay Hoffman/ Don Harmon	CIVIL LAW-TECH	8/11/2023	House	Public Act 103-0514
HB1342	Kam Buckner/ Ram Villivalam	TRANSIT RIDING PRIVILEGES/FARE	7/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0281

HB1363	Will Guzzardi/ Karina Villa	GENDER VIOLENCE- EMPLOYER DUTY	7/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0282
HB2033	Brad Stephens/ Andrew Chesney	LOCAL GOV BONDS- ORDINANCE	6/30/2023	House	Public Act 103-0137
HB2068	Theresa Mah/ Ram Villivalam	TRANSPORTATIO N BENEFIT PROGRAM	7/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0291
HB2204	Terra Costa Howard/ David Koehler	DHS-GAMBLING DISORDERS	7/25/2023	House	Public Act 103-0268
HB2493	Aaron M. Ortiz/ Robert Peters	VICTIM ECON SECURITY&SAFET Y	07/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0314
HB3129	Mary Beth Canty/ Don Harmon	EQUAL PAY ACT- PAY SCALE	8/11/2023	House	Public Act 103-0539
HB3301	Terra Costa Howard/ Michael Halpin	UNEMPLOYMENT INS-DIRECTORY	7/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0343
HB3370	Dave Vella/ Cristina Castro	PREVAILING WAGE-POWER WASHING	7/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0346
HB3516	Nabeela Syed/ Ram Villivalam	EMPLOYEE ORGAN DONATION	8/04/2023	House	Public Act 103-0450
HB3646	Marcus C. Evans, Jr./ Napoleon Harris	PEN CD-CHI MUNI- SERVICE CREDIT	8/07/2023	House	Public Act 103-0455
HB3733	Kevin John Olickal/ Ram Villivalam	LABOR-WORK- RELATED NOTICES	6/30/2023	House	Public Act 103-0201

HB3817	Jehan Gordon-Booth/ Elgie Sims Jr.	FY24 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION	6/7/2023	House	Public Act 103-0008
HB4102	La Shawn K. Ford	BIPA-SECURITY PURPOSES	10/18/23	House	House Referred to Rules Committee
HB4131	Sonya M. Harper	EV INFRASTRUCTURE ACT	10/18/23	House	House Referred to Rules Committee
HB4143	Dave Vella	UNEMPLOYMENT INS-LABOR DISPUTE	10/18/23	House	House Referred to Rules Committee
HB4162	Maurice A. West, II	OMA-DEFAULT RULES	10/18/23	House	House Referred to Rules Committee
SB214	Ram Villivalam/ Daniel Didech	DISABILITY ILLNESS	6/9/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0063
SB325	Bill Cunningham/ Daniel Didech	FOIA-RECORDS OF ATTORNEY GEN	6/9/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0069
SB734	Michael W. Halpin/ Stephanie Kifowit	PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS-TECH	8/04/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0481
SB1515	Javier L. Cervantes/ Eva-Dina Delgado	WORKPLACE PRIVACY-VERIFICATION	8/04/2023	Senate	Governor Vetoed
SB1555	David Koehler/ Dagmara Avelar	PACKAGING & PAPER STEWARDSHIP	07/28/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0383
SB1715	Suzy Glowiak Hilton/ Jenn Ladisch Douglass	PLUMBING LICENSE-BOTTLE FILL	6/30/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0223

SB1892	Mike Simmons/ Hoan Huynh	RTA- CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS	6/30/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0241
SB2014	Mike Simmons/ Kam Buckner	IDOT-SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	8/04/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0502
SB2034	Karina Villa/ Maurice West	CHILD EXTENDED BEREAVEMENT	8/04/2023	Senate	Public Act 103-0466
HR4	Kam Buckner	FIX CHICAGO TRANSIT SYSTEM	5/18/2023	House	Resolution Adopted
SR50	Win Stoller	URGES-SUPPORT RAILS-TO-TRAILS	5/19/2023	Senate	Resolution Adopted
SR152	Michael W. Halpin	AMTRAK- PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION	5/19/2023	Senate	Resolution Adopted
SR241	Michael W. Halpin	IL INTEGRATED NETWORK PLAN	5/19/2023	Senate	Resolution Adopted

Top Bills

HB 1342

Short Description: TRANSIT RIDING PRIVILEGES/FARE

House Sponsors

Rep. Kam Buckner-Eva-Dina Delgado-Bob Morgan-Matt Hanson, Brad Stephens, Gregg Johnson, Mary Beth Canty, Jaime M. Andrade, Jr., Margaret Croke, Terra Costa Howard, Travis Weaver, Edgar Gonzalez, Jr., Kevin John Olickal, Lilian Jiménez, Ann M. Williams and Kelly M. Cassidy

Senate Sponsors

(Sen. Ram Villivalam, Robert F. Martwick, Donald P. DeWitte, Sara Feigenholtz, Mary Edly-Allen and Adriane Johnson-Mike Simmons)

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act. Provides that the powers of the Chicago Transit Board include the power to pass ordinances or adopt rules and regulations concerning the suspension of riding privileges or confiscation of fare media. Amends the Local Mass Transit District Act and the Regional Transportation Authority Act. Provides that a local mass transit district's board and the Suburban Bus Board may adopt all ordinances and make all rules proper or necessary to regulate the use, operation, and maintenance of its property and facilities, and to carry into effect the powers granted to each board with any necessary fines or penalties, including ordinances, rules, or regulations concerning the suspension of riding privileges or confiscation of fare media, as each board deems

proper. Includes similar provisions for the Chief of Police of the Metra Police Department.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 2

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the engrossed bill with the following additions. Further amends the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act, the Local Mass Transit District Act, and the Regional Transportation Authority Act. Adds limits to suspension of riding privileges and confiscation of fare media and required procedures. Further amends the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act. Provides that the Chicago Transit Board shall partner with the City of Chicago to provide transportation at reduced fares for participants in programs which offer employment and internship opportunities to youth and young adults ages 14 to 24. Further amends the Regional Transportation Authority Act. Provides that, due to the fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the aggregate of all projected fare revenues from specified fares and charges received in fiscal years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (rather than 2021, 2022, and 2023) may be less than 50% of the aggregate costs of providing public transportation in those fiscal years. Creates the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Regional Transit Authority Public Transportation Assistance Program to issue monetarily preloaded mass transit cards to The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence for survivor and victim use of public transportation through the Chicago Transit Authority, the Suburban Bus Division, and the Commuter Rail Division. Provides that, after January 1, 2026, a Service Board may not enter into a new contract to purchase a bus that is not a zero-emission bus for the purpose of the Service Board's transit bus fleet, and amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Requires the Regional Transportation Authority to study and submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly regarding the feasibility and cost of providing year-round reduced or free transit fares for veterans, returning residents, and students who are not currently receiving a free or reduced fare. Requires the Suburban Bus Division and the Commuter Rail Division to create or partner with a youth jobs program to provide internship or employment opportunities to youth and young adults. Makes other changes. Provides that certain provisions are effective immediately.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 5

Provides that the local mass transit district or Service Board process to determine whether a suspension or riding privileges or confiscation of fare media is warranted and the length of the suspension shall be concluded within 30 business days (rather than 30 days) after the individual receives notice of the suspension or confiscation. Provides that the local mass transit district or Service Board process to determine whether a suspension or riding privileges or confiscation of fare media is warranted and the length of the suspension shall be concluded within 30 business days (rather than 30 days) after the individual receives notice of the suspension or confiscation. In provisions relating to an administrative suspension hearing of a local mass transit district or a Service Board, provides that legal counsel of an accused or related parties may be present, make an oral or written presentation, and offer documents. Provides that, after July 1, 2026 (rather than January 1, 2026), a Service Board may not enter into a new contract to purchase a bus that is not a zero-emission bus for the purpose of the Service Board's transit bus fleet. Provides that a Service Board shall not be deemed to be in violation of the provisions when failure to comply is due to: (1) the unavailability of zero-emission buses from a manufacturer or funding to purchase zero-emission buses; (2) the lack of necessary charging, fueling, or storage facilities or funding to procure charging, fueling, or storage facilities; or (3) the inability of a third party to enter into a contractual or commercial relationship with a Service Board that is necessary to carry out the purposes of the provisions. In provisions relating to Service Board suspension of riding

privileges and confiscation of fare media, provides that the notice shall be provided in person at the time of the alleged violation, except that, if providing notice in person at the time of the alleged violation is not practicable, then the Authority shall make a reasonable effort to provide notice to the individual by personal service, by mailing a copy of the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, and first-class mail to the person's current address, or by emailing a copy of the notice to an email address on file (rather, if providing notice in person at the time of the alleged than violation is not practicable, then notice shall be provided to the individual by either personal service or by mailing a copy of the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, and first-class mail to the person's current address). Provides that the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Regional Transit Authority Public Transportation Assistance Program's preloaded mass transit cards shall have a value of \$20 per card. Provides that the Regional Transportation Authority shall file a statement certifying that the Service Boards published specified data with the General Assembly and the Governor after adoption of the Annual Budget and Two-Year Financial Plan and, if the Authority fails to file a statement certifying publication of the data, then the appropriations to the Department of Transportation for grants to the Authority intended to reimburse the Service Boards for providing free and reduced fares shall be withheld. Makes conforming changes.

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
7/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0281

HB 2068

Short Description: TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT PROGRAM

House Sponsors

Rep. Theresa Mah-Will Guzzardi-Matt Hanson-Kam Buckner-Hoan Huynh, Joyce Mason, Aaron M. Ortiz, Mark L. Walker, Daniel Didech, Eva-Dina Delgado, Lilian Jiménez and Jaime M. Andrade, Jr.

Senate Sponsors

(Sen. Ram Villivalam-Willie Preston)

Synopsis As Introduced

Creates the Transportation Benefits Program Act. Requires all covered employers to provide a program that allows a covered employee to elect to exclude from taxable wages and compensation the employee's commuting costs incurred for the purchase of a transit pass to use public transit or for the purchase of qualified parking, up to a maximum level allowed by federal tax law. Provides that all transit agencies shall market the existence of this program and the Act to their riders in order to inform affected employees and their employers. Provides that nothing in the Act shall be deemed to interfere with, impede, or in any way diminish the right of employees to bargain collectively with their employers or affect the validity or change the terms of bona fide collective bargaining agreements in force on the effective date of the Act. Defines terms. Effective January 1, 2024.

House Floor Amendment No. 1

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the introduced bill with the following changes: Provides that the definition of "covered employer" includes an employer that employs 50 or more covered employees (rather than an average of 25 or more full-time employees) in a specified geographic area at an address that is located within one mile of regularly scheduled transit service. Provides that the pre-tax commuter benefit shall allow employees to use pre-tax dollars for the purchase of a transit pass or qualified parking, via payroll deduction, such that the costs for such purchases may be excluded from the employee's taxable wages and compensation up to the maximum amount permitted by federal tax law. Provides that the Regional Transportation Authority shall make publicly available a searchable database of addresses that are located within one mile of regularly scheduled transit service. Removes provisions concerning compensation for qualified parking. Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2024.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the engrossed bill with the following changes: In provisions concerning the transportation benefits program, removes a provision that allows employees to use pre-tax dollars for the purchase of qualified parking. Provides that the Regional Transportation Authority shall make publicly available a searchable map (rather than database) of addresses that are located within one mile of fixed-route transit service (rather than regularly scheduled transit service). Effective January 1, 2024.

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
07/28/2023	House	Public Act 103-0291

General Legislative Updates

GOVERNOR’S HIGHLIGHTS:

Health Benefits for Senior Immigrants: The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services will pause enrollment for new enrollees in the [Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors](#) program on November 6. The program is nearing the cap of 16,500 enrollees thus causing the Department to implement a temporary pause in enrollment. Read more [here](#).

Illinois Reports Confirmed Measles Case: The Illinois Department of Public Health reports that on October 10, a suspected case of measles was reported by the Cook County Department of Public Health. The case, involving an unvaccinated individual with exposure internationally, was confirmed by the IDPH laboratory on October 11. IDPH is working with CCDPH to identify potential exposure locations in the U.S. The last measles case in Illinois was identified in 2019.

Governor Pritzker Launches Think Big America: Democratic Governor J.B. Pritzker is launching a new organization, Think Big America, which will focus on passing abortion rights ballot measures around the country. According to the Governor, Think Big America will initially focus on passing pro-abortion rights ballot measures. The mission will eventually expand to fighting anti-LGBTQ+ laws and book bans as well as supporting lawsuits challenging abortion bans in the states. The new organization is

being staffed by several senior Pritzker advisers and other members of the governor's campaign team who will split time between the campaign organization and the new Think Big Organization.

Illinois on Heightened Alert: Governor JB Pritzker, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, and the Illinois State Police are closely monitoring the conflict in the Middle East and potential threats in Illinois. The Governor, who has been briefed by both agencies and the White House, instructed the agencies to work closely with law enforcement partners and to be on heightened alert for any threats related to places of worship across the state to protect First Amendment rights and the safety of worshippers.

A suburban man is being charged with a hate crime for killing a six-year-old suburban Palestinian American and wounding his mother. Police investigating the incident say it was motivated by the war in Israel. President Biden issued a statement saying, "This horrific act of hate has no place in America and stands against our fundamental values: freedom from fear for how we pray, what we believe and who we are." Governor Pritzker responded saying "To take a six-year-old child's life in the name of bigotry is nothing short of evil."

Illinois Tax Relief for Individuals and Businesses Impacted by Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Individuals and businesses affected by the attacks that took place in Israel and the resulting Israeli-Palestinian conflict are eligible for tax relief in Illinois. Impacted taxpayers may request to waive penalties and interest with the Illinois Department of Revenue if they cannot file their returns or make timely payments for income, withholding, sales, specialty, and excise taxes. The deadline has been extended to October 7, 2024, and the relief is limited to returns and payments due between October 7, 2023, and October 7, 2024. Read more, including a list of who qualifies, [here](#).

Hydrogen Hub Awarded \$1 Billion in Federal Funding: The Midwest Hydrogen Hub, which is comprised of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, were awarded \$1 billion in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. The Midwest Hydrogen Hub is a network that enables decarbonization through strategic hydrogen use and is projected to reduce carbon emission by approximately 3.9 million metric tons per year. Read more [here](#).

Illinois Economic Empowerment Centers Program: The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity launched \$2.5 million in funding for the new Illinois Economic Empowerment Centers Program (EEC). Eligible career education agencies and non-profit organizations can now apply to serve as EECs to provide entrepreneurship training to prepare individuals from historically marginalized communities to pursue business opportunities in a more inclusive business ecosystem. EECs will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity process. Read more [here](#).

Gubernatorial Appointments: Governor Pritzker appointed Camile Lindsay to serve as the next Acting Director of Professional Regulation. Lindsay previously served in the Pritzker Administration as First Assistant Deputy Governor for infrastructure, public safety, environment, and energy.

Electric Vehicle Policy Bootcamp: This week, Governor JB Pritzker and several local stakeholders joined the Illinois Medium- and Heavy- Duty Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy Bootcamp hosted by the Electrification Coalition. The event was an opportunity for Illinois legislators, companies, and

environmental organizations to convene to advance Illinois' commitment to fighting climate change with transitions to zero-emission vehicles. The Electrification Coalition is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. Read more [here](#).

JCAR Asks for Clarity on New Gun Rules: The Bipartisan Joint Committee on Administrative Rules will allow new, temporary rules governing the registration of assault weapons and attachments to remain in effect. The Commission asked the Illinois State Police to provide more clarity and transparency to their new rules and the agency has agreed to hold additional public hearings and provide more information before adopting permanent rules. A motion to object to the rules failed along party lines. Read more [here](#).

ICC Contemplates Natural Gas Rate Increase: Administrative Judges at the Illinois Commerce Commission recommend that the Commission approve rate increases for four natural gas companies: Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas. The Commission will weigh the recommendation over the next two months. The rate increases would impact the company's collective 4.1 million customers. Read more [here](#).

103rd ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Illinois General Assembly convenes next week for the first week of a two-week Veto session. Session is scheduled for October 24 – 26 and November 7 – 9. As a reminder, unlike the Spring session, all legislation must pass Veto session with super-majorities – 71 votes in the House and 36 votes in the Senate – to go into effect immediately. Likewise, it will take supermajorities in both chambers to override any Gubernatorial vetoes.

The full agenda for the fall Veto session remains fluid. In addition to considering vetoes, advocates are pushing a measure to allow law enforcement to take firearms away from a perpetrator if a domestic violence survivor receives a protection order. Proponents of extending the \$75 million Invest in Kids income tax credit for private school scholarships (which is set to expire at the end of the year) are circulating a new [draft](#) proposal hoping to find a compromise with teacher's unions and progressive organizations who oppose to the extension. The House Executive Committee will consider [HB 4148](#) (Welch) which would allow legislative staff to unionize. House Democratic staff are pushing for the right to organize.

The Legislature is not expected to take up a supplemental appropriation to help Chicago deal with the migrant crisis nor will they consider legislation requested by the Chicago Bears to aid their move to Arlington Heights.

This week, the Senate positioned 33 vehicle bills for possible action during the two-week session.

The House Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, & IT Committee will hold a joint hearing with the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on November 2 at 10 am in the Bilandic Building in Chicago (and Virtual Room 1) to discuss emerging issues in artificial intelligence.

OTHER NEWS:

Illinois Delegation Visits the Boarder: A team of Chicago and State officials visited the Mexico border this week to see first-hand the conditions and how asylum seekers are being sent to Chicago. The team plans to meet with US Customs and Boarder Protection officials to request assistance in coordination with the hope of decreasing the number of busses being sent to Illinois. The team also wants to establish better lines of communication about the steady stream of buses now ignoring the city's curfew and share information about extreme housing and weather conditions now facing the 18,500 asylum-seekers who have already reached Chicago.

The team includes Deputy Mayor for Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Rights Beatriz Ponce de León; Deputy Chief of Staff Cristina Pacione-Zayas; Alderman Andre Vasquez (who chairs the council's Immigrant and Refugee Rights Committee); Alderman Pat Dowell; Alderman Lamont Robinson, Alderman William Hall and Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez. Also attending are Illinois Department of Human Services' Acting Secretary Dulce Quintero, Illinois' chief homeless officer Christine Haley, and Andrea Vallejo and Isabella Hurtado, from the Governor's office.

Meanwhile, a St. Louis not-for-profit this week announced they want to relocate some of Chicago's asylum seekers to St. Louis to bolster the city's workforce and increase the city's population. The program would be funded by private donors and would provide three months of housing, cellphones, and help finding apprenticeship programs and job placements.

2024 Election Update: Cass County Board Member Eric Snellgrove will seek the Republican nomination to replace retiring Representative Randy Frese in the 99th House District.



MEMO

DATE: October 24, 2023

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: David Braun, General Manager

Subject: Clarification of By-Laws Pertaining to Executive Session Attendance by Other Means – Discussion Only

Background:

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 have included the following language:

'Other means' is by video or audio conference. A Trustee(s) may not attend a closed meeting by other means. If a Trustee wishes to attend a meeting by other means, the Trustee must notify the recording secretary or designee of the Board before the meeting unless advance notice is impractical. A majority of the Board of Trustees may allow a member to attend a meeting by other means only in accordance with and to the extent allowed by rules adopted by the Board of Trustees.

A question about this clause was raised when a Trustee attended a closed meeting by other means earlier this year. When Administration researched the origin of the language, we found another set of by-laws dated September 2015 that 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 26th Day of May 2015 and are still in full force and effect."

We also researched notes and minutes but could not find a discussion of this issue. Given the difference between By-Laws, the concern raised, and the inconsistent information provided to the Board, Administration would like to get clarity as to how to proceed.

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.

MEETINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

5. An annual meeting of the Trustees shall be held each year on the same date and at the same place as the regular monthly meeting of the Trustees in March, and it shall immediately precede the Trustees' meeting. Any business may be transacted at the annual meeting, but one purpose shall be the election of officers for the next ensuing year which will end on the last day of June. No prior notice of such meeting shall be required to be given to the Trustees.

Regular meetings of the Trustees shall be held monthly at the office of the System, with the hour and the day of the month to be fixed by Resolution/Vote of the Trustees.

If the date of the regular meeting comes on a legal holiday the Board of Trustees shall determine the meeting date.

Special meetings of the Trustees may be called by the Chairman on two days' notice, in writing, or verbally to all Trustees, and shall be called by the Chairman in like manner on the written request of two Trustees.

Regular meetings and Special meetings may be held at an alternative site other than the office of the System with sufficient advance notice as required by law.

For any meeting, attendance by four (4) or more of the Trustees holding office shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time without further notice until a quorum is secured.

Action may be taken by the Trustees only upon a vote of four (4) of the Trustees casting affirmative votes.

If a quorum of the members of the Board of Trustees is physically present as required by the State of Illinois Section 2.01 of 5 ILCS 120/Open Meetings Act, a majority of the Board of Trustees may allow by motion and vote, a Trustee to attend the meeting by other means if the Trustee is prevented from physically attending because of: (1) personal illness or disability; (2) employment purposes or the business of the public body; or (3) a family or other emergency. "Other means" is by video or audio conference.

A Trustee(s) may not attend a closed meeting by other means.

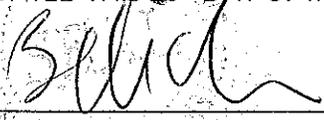
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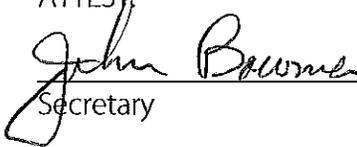
An agenda shall be distributed to all Trustees for regular meetings at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting.

The foregoing By-Laws were approved unanimously by the Trustees at a meeting held on the 26th Day of May, 2015 and are still in full force and effect.

DATED THIS 26th DAY OF May, 2015.



Chairman

ATTEST:


Secretary

MEETINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

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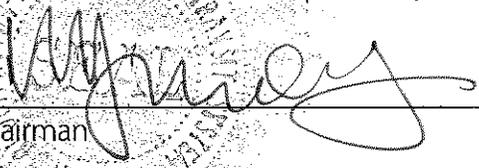
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An agenda shall be distributed to all Trustees for regular meetings at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting.

The foregoing By-Laws were approved unanimously by the Trustees at a meeting held on the 26th Day of May, 2015 and are still in full force and effect.

DATED THIS 1st DAY OF September, 2015.



Chairman

ATTEST:



Secretary