



Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

130 West Grimes Lane, Bloomington, Indiana 47403
812.332.5688 Fax 812.332.3660



TO: Bloomington City Council
FROM: Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transit Corporation
DATE: April 20, 2022
RE: LIT Funding

The Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transit Corporation (BPTC) appreciates the City Council considering the dedication of local funding for transit from the local option income tax (LIT). Although it is the responsibility of the Bloomington City Council to make decisions regarding the adoption of local option income taxes, the BPTC Board felt it important to express to the Council its thoughts and concerns about the proposal for increasing funding to support public transportation projects under consideration.

LIT transit revenue may position BPTC to do remarkable things to improve the mobility for all members of our community. That said, the transportation-related projects listed in Appendix B of the LIT Details are ambitious and some may require several years in order to implement.

As the Council is no doubt aware, each of the LIT service expansion projects put forward for consideration will require feasibility analysis and public input prior to the embarking on the initial steps of implementation. In order for BPTC to fulfill its commitment to be good stewards of public funds, each project will also need to be assessed in order to project passenger demand, precise cost, and general feasibility, and then be endorsed by the BT staff and BT board as viable and practical. If the Council determines that it should move forward with the proposed LIT increase as proposed, at a minimum, that BPTC believes it realistically will need at least a 5 year funding commitment to make any of the proposed service changes a reality.

One of the critical steps necessary prior to making proposed services changes a reality is aligning service improvements with the development of a Strategic Plan. The Plan will provide a clear vision for the next six to ten years for public transit projects and services. BPTC is currently in the process of securing a consultant to assist in the development of a Strategic Plan and will be seeking input from the BPTC riders, the Bloomington community, Office of the Mayor, the City Council, Indiana University, and the County Administration as the Strategic Plan is developed. Although there will be many facets to the Strategic Plan, including goals reflected in the projects proposed by the Mayor, it's clear that BPTC will need to incorporate the recommendations from the *Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure Assessment Study* to aid in determining the long-range transition to alternative fuels for the BT fleet and in determining the feasibility of renovating the Grimes Lane facility versus building a new facility.

This is an exciting time for the transit industry given the significant increases in federal funding for transit projects. More federal dollars are available now than ever before. As each of you may know, maximizing the procurement of federal transit funds requires having local matching funds to leverage. For that reason, if the City Council decides to dedicate a portion of LIT funds for improving public transit services over the next 5 years, the BPTC Board of Directors would respectfully request that the Council commit to long term funding, perhaps via a local intergovernmental agreement positioning BPTC to leverage local LIT funds for future federal funding opportunities and allow BPTC to utilize existing local revenues to implement viable service expansions.

James McLary, Chair
Board of Directors
Bloomington Public Transit Corporation