



MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE ON:

Resolution 23-10 – A Resolution Requesting an Appropriation Recommendation to Establish Additional Bus Routes Circulating the Greater Downtown of Bloomington

Synopsis

This resolution is sponsored by Councilmember Volan and is a vehicle to express the Council's interest in a recommendation from the Mayor regarding appropriations to assist with the creation of a "Greater Downtown Circulator" bus route.

Relevant Materials

- [Resolution 23-10](#)
- Memo from Sponsor Councilmember Volan
- Downtown Shuttle and Circulator Conceptual Plan from Bloomington Transit
- Bloomington Industrial Development Advisory Commission Resolution 23-01

Summary

[Resolution 23-10](#) is sponsored by Councilmember Volan and would formally request a recommendation from the Mayor for an appropriation of \$5 million in former Industrial Development Fund dollars to support estimated capital costs and first-year operating costs for a new Bloomington Transit downtown circulator route.

The Bloomington Industrial Development Fund ("IDF") and the Bloomington Industrial Development Advisory Commission ("BIDAC") were created in 1997 through adoption of [Ordinance 97-22](#). Earlier in 2023, the BIDAC, pursuant to procedures contained in [Indiana Code 36-7-13](#), adopted its Resolution 23-01 (included herein) to declare Bloomington's former Community Revitalization Enhancement Districts terminated, to declare the purposes of the IDF accomplished, and to dissolve the BIDAC. Following this action, the balance of funds remaining in the IDF were transferred to the City's general fund and are now available for appropriation by the City out of that fund. BIDAC Resolution 23-01 also contained a history of the past uses of IDF monies.

[Indiana Code 36-4-7-8](#) provides that the legislative body may, on the recommendation of the city executive, make further or additional appropriations by ordinance, as long as the result does not increase the city's tax levy that was set as part of the annual budgeting process. This non-binding resolution would request such a recommendation from the Mayor, which could come to the Council in the form of an additional appropriation ordinance or as part of the annual budgeting process.



City of Bloomington Indiana

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If the Mayor is amenable to this request for an appropriation recommendation, additional coordination would be required between the City and the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation. [Indiana Code 36-9-4-35.1](#) gives the board of directors of a public transportation corporation the authority to make rules governing the use, operation, and maintenance of the transit system and allows the board to determine all rates, routings, and hours and standards of service.

The Council will recall that the City and the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation recently entered into an interlocal cooperation agreement (approved by the Council via [Resolution 23-03](#)) regarding the distribution of economic development income tax funds to support transit projects described in that agreement. The addition of downtown circulator routes as envisioned in [Resolution 23-10](#) would similarly require the support of Bloomington Transit and its board of directors.

Bloomington Transit has prepared a Downtown Shuttle and Circulator Conceptual Plan (last updated in March 2023 and included in this packet) that shows potential service routes, frequencies, and costs. While [Resolution 23-10](#) calls for the initial capital costs and first-year operating costs of a downtown circulator to be paid for with former IDF dollars, a source of ongoing funding may need to be identified, as there is no longer revenue generated by the Community Revitalization Enhancement Districts.

Contact

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