

RESOLUTION 23-10

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATION RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL BUS ROUTES CIRCULATING THE GREATER DOWNTOWN OF BLOOMINGTON

- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Common Council (Council) is the elected legislative body with authority to pass ordinances, resolutions, and motions for the government of the city, the control of the city's property and finances, and the appropriation of money; and
- WHEREAS, the Council may pass resolutions expressing the will of the Council; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-4-7-8 states that the city legislative body, on the recommendation of the city executive, make further or additional appropriations by ordinance; and
- WHEREAS, the Industrial Development Fund (IDF) was created in 1997 to, in part, enhance the city's ability to pursue opportunities for economic and industrial development and high-quality employment in or serving the city; and
- WHEREAS, in 2003, the Council adopted Resolution 03-26 to authorize the Mayor to apply for creation of a Community Revitalization Enhancement District for the downtown commercial area meant to help offset obstacles to redevelopment in an effort to keep the downtown area vital; and
- WHEREAS, the IDF has been dissolved and over \$17 million from the IDF has since been transferred the city General Fund according to state statute; and
- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Common Council believes that funds from the Downtown Community Revitalization Enhancement District should be directed towards improvements that align with the original purpose of the fund; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-7-13-12.1 states that significant obstacles to redevelopment in Community Revitalization Enhancement Districts may include transportation or access problems; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-7-13-12.1 contemplates addressing such redevelopment obstacles through expenditures on machinery, equipment, facilities, and operating expenses; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-9-4-35.1 states that the board of directors of a public transportation corporation may determine, among other things, the rates, routings, and hours and standards of service for the transportation system; and
- WHEREAS, the Council supports a strong local public transportation system and believes that public transit options positively impact the economy of Indiana, improve air quality, reduce congestion, improve mobility, increase personal independence, and enhance the quality of life for the community; and
- WHEREAS, the city and local residents would benefit from additional bus routes servicing the greater downtown Bloomington area that would connect parking resources with points of interest in order to reduce reliance on personal vehicles; and
- WHEREAS, such an extension of service would increase participation in public transit, would reduce demand for private car transportation, would make parking resources more accessible and shareable, would make it easier for individuals to access less expensive parking options, would reduce the greater community's carbon footprint, would enhance employment opportunities in the area it newly serves, and would better serve persons who are in need of public transportation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Bloomington Common Council hereby requests the Mayor’s recommendation, made after any appropriate and necessary consultation with the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation and its board of directors, for an appropriation of \$5 million in former IDF dollars now in the General Fund sufficient to cover capital costs and one year of operating costs for Bloomington Transit to establish a fare-free, trolley-style electric bus line circulating around the greater downtown area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

SUE SGAMBELLURI, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City 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.