



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: July 20, 2023
RE: Transit Service Area Expansion

On July 18, 2023, the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transit Corporation (BPTC) unanimously passed Resolution 23-14, attached hereto, expressing the board's support for expanding the service area for Bloomington Transit.

The reasons the board strongly believes the service area expansion is necessary are listed below:

- Stakeholder meetings were held as part of the development of BPTC's Strategic Plan, *Transform BT*, in which we received significant community input that described the existing service area as inadequate to meet the mobility needs of our customers, employers and educational institutions. City residents voiced frustration of not being able to reach desired destinations outside city limits.
- Adopting a regional approach to public transit will better position BPTC to align with goals within the City of Bloomington's Climate Action Plan. BPTC could explore additional regional innovative mobility options and potentially leverage additional federal funding for climate reduction programs.
- The BPTC is poised to invest approximately \$450,000 of LIT funds to explore the feasibility of a high frequency east/west route. Significant amounts of the corridor identified for the study purposes include areas that BPTC cannot currently serve. The feasibility study could potentially recommend a bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor that includes areas outside the existing service area. Prior to committing funding for the study, the board believes it needs to have the legal capacity to potentially serve all areas within the study area corridor.
- The most recent Census Map has redefined the urbanized area which now includes areas which may be ripe for private developer funded transit services that BPTC cannot currently serve.
- The redefined urban area is used to calculate the federal formula funding levels for the BPTC. Accordingly, BPTC should have the ability to serve, at a minimum, the entire urbanized area which contributes to federal formula funding.
- In 2024, the revised urbanized area will prevent Rural Transit from providing services to existing customers in the new urban area. These individuals, many of whom are elderly or disabled, will be left without service in 2024. BPTC, is prepared to meet the needs of those individuals if adequate funding is made available. Negotiations for funding needs to begin now as 2024 budgets are being prepared.

In September of 2022, The City Council unanimously passed resolution 22-16, expressing support for expanding BPTC's service area. Furthermore, this council was instrumental in establishing a LIT funding commitment to enhance and strengthen public transit services. BPTC believes this Council, which has consistently demonstrated support and a visionary approach for transit service improvements, can begin the journey to "Transform BT" by approving service area expansion.

Thank you for your continued support of the BPTC.