



Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

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Mayor John Hamilton
401 N Morton St
Suite 210
Bloomington IN 47404

June 05, 2023

Dear Mayor Hamilton,

I am writing to inform you of the unanimous opinion of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation (BPTC) the time has come for BPTC to expand its service area. The reasons the board strongly believes the service area expansion is necessary are listed below:

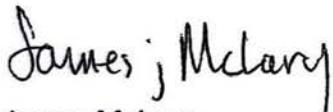
- Stakeholder meetings held as part of the development of BPTC's Strategic Plan, *Transform BT*, yielded community input identifying the existing service area as inadequate to meet the mobility needs of our customers, employers and educational institutions. City residents voiced frustration of not being able to reach desired destinations outside city limits.
- Adopting a regional approach to public transit will better position BPTC to align with the goals of 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 areas 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 would be prudent 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 service contracts that BPTC cannot currently undertake.
- 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 used for federal formula funding calculations.

- In 2024, the revised urbanized will prevent Rural Transit from providing services to existing customers in the newly revised urban area. These customers, a majority of which 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 obligations need 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. BPTC believes it should capitalize on the existing political support for service area expansion.

The Board of Directors acknowledge any expansion of services outside the City limits may require financial support from partner agencies such as, other units of government, private developers, and or major employers. Accordingly, negotiating terms for financial support for expanded services outside the city will prove impossible for BPTC without first having the legal authority to actually operate the service.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss the matter in greater detail with you and develop a plan for BPTC to move forward. Would you be willing to solicit a sponsor of an Ordinance reestablishing BPTC's service area throughout Monroe County for City Council's consideration?

Sincerely,



James McLary

Chair

Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

CC: Kent McDaniel

Doug Horn

Nancy Obermeyer

Marilyn Hartman

John Connell