



MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

3/21/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The Transportation Steering Committee met on Tuesday, March 21, 2025, at 12:00 PM, in the Tom Baker Meeting Room, 221 N 5th St, Bismarck, ND.

Committee members present included, Trevor Vannett, Micah Olson, Dawn Kopp, Mayor Mike Schmitz, Commissioner Michael Connelly, Mike Taylor, Dustin Gawrylow, and Melissa Nordsven. Members Brian Ritter, Brenda Nagel, Jaelyn Chathams were absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Public Comment

Heather May, Community Integration Specialist for Bismarck Burleigh Public Health, offered to share the survey results from the Adult Learning Center by New Americans.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dawn Kopp moved to approve the minutes as presented and Member Gawrylow seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

C. 2025-2026 Bismarck Public School Bus Route Schedule Discussion

Darin Scherr, Bismarck Public Schools Business and Operations Manager, presented information on the Two-Tier Bus System that BPS will be transitioning to for the 2025-2026 school year.

Darin Scherr explained that as a result of the Two Tier Bus System, school start/end times have been altered to the following:

- Elementary: 7:50 AM-2:20PM
- Middle School: 8:40 AM-3:50 PM
- BHS and CHS: 8:30 AM - 3:38 PM
- LHS: 8:30 AM - 3:50 PM

Member Gawrylow inquired if the school district had drivers that were also employees of Bismar Transit. Darin Scherr responded that he did not believe that was the case. Member Taylor asked if the school district and Bismar Transit had ever tried to coordinate their routes. Mr. Scherr responded that there was an attempt about 15 years ago but, due to various factors and complications, coordination never occurred. Mr. Scherr did indicate that when their

current contract for bussing has expired that the school district would be open to discussing how Bismar Transit and BPS may be able to coordinate.

D. Fixed Route Discussion

Diedre Hughes provided a thorough explanation of the fixed-route services that Bismar Transit provides for Bismarck/Mandan. The committee then began discussing the various gaps in services and barriers that are present that may result in citizens not being able to utilize the service. At the end of the discussion, the committee requested Diedre provide information on the following at the next committee meeting:

1. What routing or services would look like that incorporate access to medical services?
2. Costs for the services Bismar Transit currently provides (fixed route and paratransit) and limitations/factors to provide projections
3. Costs for extending fixed route services from 6:00AM-10:00PM
4. Provide stats for ridership on Sundays
5. What may be some options for express service routes?
6. Partnerships with BPS/Umary/BSC

E. Community Conversations with the Human Relations Committee

Mayor Schmitz introduced that the Transportation Steering Committee will be Partnering with the Bismarck Human Relations Committee at their next Community Conversations Forum, scheduled for May 8th, 6:00 PM, in the Tom Baker Meeting Room at the City/County Building.

Doug Wiles presented questions that the Human Relations Committee had for the committee members. Dawn Kopp expressed that she would be willing to help with the event.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM.