



New Route Task Force Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2020, 1:00PM

Via Zoom Conference Call

Attending:

Trevor Vannett

Jeannie Pedersen

Randee Sailer

Lacey Long

Craig Thomas

Danae Thiery

Helen Baumgartner

John Dinkel

Staff:

Glenn Lauinger

Deidre Hughes

Mike Mundahl

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Meeting called to order at 1:00 P.M.

- 1. Proposed Routes Discussion:** Deidre called the meeting to order and reviewed all routes are 1-hour routes, and that we would be discussing all six routes. The map with the proposed routes was shared with all via Zoom.

Mandan Route: She began with the Mandan route, which was a major change from the current route system, and turned it over to Craig to elaborate on proposed changes. Craig discussed that the thoughts were to combine the Purple and Brown routes into one Mandan route. This route continues to serve the same areas of Mandan that are currently served, stopping at Dans Supermarket at the bottom of each hour. The route would be in Bismarck every hour, stopping at BSC every odd hour, and the Front Street transfer point every even hour. Craig clarified that 3rd St SW would be covered by the south part of the route.

Red Route: The proposed Red route was discussed. Deidre explained that it was tight & it may need to be re-visited. Craig explained that the Red route would leave BSC at the top of the hour, and would cover the East Dans Supermarket. There was a question about whether or not that would change para-transit service. Deidre explained that it was still in the service area. Craig explained the route may need to be tweaked a bit because there were still some concerns with timing. Construction will continue to create concerns on this route into next year as well, with work continuing in the area of 43rd Ave & Highway 83.

Black Route: Craig discussed the proposed Black route, reviewing that the proposed Black route would not stop by the South Cashwise anymore, with a different route covering that location. The goal is to have the Red and Black routes meet up at the North transfer point at the same time to eliminate waiting time as much as possible. Helen asked about the access to the State Capitol grounds. Deidre and Craig explained that a different route was tried approximately 6 months ago, however the roads on the grounds were often too tight to navigate. They explained that the current route is much safer, and riders can avoid having to walk through a parking lot where there is vehicle traffic.

Blue Route: Craig discussed the Blue route, which leaves Front Ave at the top of every hour, and BSC at the bottom of every hour. He explained that due to safety concerns, the route would not pull into the Kirkwood Mall parking lot.

Green Route: The proposed Green route was discussed, which covers the South Cashwise location that would no longer be covered by the Black route. The Green route would leave the University of Mary at the bottom of every hour, and would add coverage to Tatley Meadows.

Orange Route: The proposed Orange route is a new route created by taking the bus from the current Brown route. This route would open up access to the Transit Center, and include locations like the Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch, Simle School, Hillside Park, Richolt School, BHS, and Sanford Hospital. This route would cover more residential areas, providing more people an opportunity to get to downtown clinics for appointments.

2. **Next Steps / Future Meetings:** Susan asked about when the proposed changes could potentially take effect. Deidre explained that the process was about halfway done, and that along with presenting the proposed changes to the board, there would need to be a series of public listening and public comment sessions to provide the public an opportunity to provide input. Craig also explained that he would want the drivers to have an opportunity to review the proposed changes & provide feedback.

There was also some discussion on the north transfer point. Deidre said she had been working with the city on some options, and that there is some concern about traffic when the schools are full.

The Task Force discussed when to meet next, and the agreed date would be around September 22nd or 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M.