



Community Transportation Input Committee Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Via Zoom Conference Call & In person at
3750 E Rosser Avenue, Bismarck

Attending:	Chair/Helen Baumgartner	Glenn Lauinger
	Randee Sailer	Jeannie Pedersen
	Susan Dingle	Trevor Vannett
Staff:	Deidre Hughes	Taylor Kitzan
	Mike Mundahl	Craig Thomas

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M.

Deidre said the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the proposal offered by the Board at the special meeting the previous week, that all holidays, regardless of the day the fall on, would be offered at 10:00 am – 4:00 pm to all paratransit riders and the general public. This meeting is looking for input about whether riders feel this is a better proposal than the original approved proposal of 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The meeting was opened up for discussion.

Trevor said he didn't have a problem with the general public but asked for another hour on the back end to extend the service until 5:00 pm. Jeannie said it was suggested at the DCIL-hosted meeting that the service run until 6:00 pm so people would have time to eat with families and have fewer hours on Memorial Day & Labor Day. Trevor said he was taking feedback from the DCIL-hosted meeting and would agree to 6:00 pm, but was trying to compromise with the Board and said the main holidays for them were Christmas, Thanksgiving, and the 4th of July.



Deidre said the goal of the Board was to have standardization of holiday hours.

Jeannie said people from nursing homes or group homes want to be with their loved ones and that this might be the only time they can get out to see them.

Trevor said that with the talk about other changes, they don't want to approve something and then have it change again and that riders would like consistency. Deidre said the original conversation was about consistency for holiday hours, which was the goal; however, because this grew into a larger issue, if something is approved and we go back to look at service hours, there could be more than one revision in the next year or two.

Jeannie said it's hard when they were allowed to have everything, to all of a sudden, now everything is taken away and minimizing their hours to almost nothing. Susan said that if people are concerned about having the most hours possible with their family, they would want to get picked up as early as possible and dropped off as late as possible, putting pressure on start and end times. She questioned whether there would be enough buses and drivers available. She said one reason to think about more hours available is so pickup times could be more staggered, and people would still be able to have a nice time with family and friends. Susan said we have to think through the issues we are trying to serve our users, their needs, what they are doing with their time, and how we accommodate that. She added that many people discussing this do not use the service and do not know how long you have to wait for a bus and how long a trip takes. She said if the public likes the idea and it is successful, we will have full buses, creating additional challenges.

Helen said Christmas is a holiday that keeps popping up and thinks 10:00 am – 2:00 pm creates hardship and asked if it was possible to separate Christmas from the other holidays. Deidre said it was discussed initially, but then we end up saying this religious holiday is more important than any other holiday and that we have to be careful with prioritizing. Susan said Christmas and Thanksgiving are extended family holidays.

Trevor said he was trying to come up with a compromise. Deidre said the 10:00 am – 4:00 am proposal was the compromise to show we are doing everything we can while still making smart decisions business-wise. Deidre said all comments would be sent out in the Board packet before the next meeting, which would be postponed due to the closing date on a bid. All comments would need to be submitted by August 26th, 2022.

Helen said she wants the committee to realize how Deidre works to get the best service she can for the people that ride.



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Randee said some advice from the DCIL-sponsored meeting was to charge paratransit riders 50 cents a ride to use the CAT bus rather than allow them to ride free. Susan said she would provide a summary of the DCIL-sponsored meeting in the next couple of days.

Glenn said he wanted to make it clear that the public comments are not limited to whether people do or do not favor 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, but that all comments are welcomed. Deidre clarified that any remarks related to transit are welcome at any time and that any holiday hours-related input received before August 26th, 2022, would be included in the Board packet.

Glenn said he had heard about issues that we were not notifying riders of meetings. He said he reviewed the website, and there is notice of every meeting, with generally 3-4 days notice, unless there is an emergency meeting that does not allow as much time for notice.

Glenn said he heard an issue that some signs on the buses were too small or were put on the sides and not upfront. Craig explained that signs on the plexiglass created a safety issue with the driver not being able to see into the passenger area.

Helen said she heard comments that agencies are unaware of what is happening and wanted to know if there was a way to keep them informed. Deidre suggested adding them to the press release distribution list if contacts would be interested in being included.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 A.M.



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