**Illinois State**

**University**

**Board of**

**Trustees**

 **Resolution No. 2015.05/17**

 **Connect Transit Agreement**

**Resolution**

Whereas, Illinois State University has partnered with Connect Transit (formerly Bloomington Normal Public Transit System) to provide certain transportation services since 1998, and

Whereas, said partnership benefits all University faculty, staff, and students by allowing them to use their Illinois State University Redbird Card as a bus pass to access Connect Transit services, and

Whereas, ridership for the various transportation services provided exceeds 650,000 rides annually; and

Whereas, University policies require Board of Trustees approval on expenditures of $500,000 or more:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes the University to enter into an agreement with Connect Transit to provide transportation services to students, faculty and staff for an amount not to exceed $520,000 for fiscal year 2016.

Board Action on: Postpone:

 Motion by: Amend:

 Second by: Disapprove:

 Vote: Yeas: Nays: Approve:

 ATTEST: Board Action, May 8, 2015

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**Board of Trustees**

**Illinois State University**

**Supplemental Information for Connect Transit Agreement**

Illinois State University and Connect Transit (formerly Bloomington Normal Public Transit System) have a long standing partnership. With the presentation of an ISU Redbird Card, all students, faculty and staff can ride on any Connect Transit route free of charge. Connect Transit provides fixed-route, regularly published citywide public transportation service that includes service through the Illinois State University campus on bus routes known as the Redbird Express, Nite Ride and Late Nite Ride. Monthly payments are made by the University to Connect Transit for the transportation services provided for students, faculty and staff.

The partnership between the Bloomington Normal Public Transit System and the University was formalized in 1998 with creation of the Nite Ride Service. Created to provide a safe after-hours transportation alternative for students, Nite Ride has been successful and continues to grow in ridership. Due to increased demand for daily ridership throughout campus and around the community, Redbird Express and Late Nite Ride routes were implemented in 2003.

For the past decade, faculty, staff and student usage of the services provided by Connect Transit have steadily increased. In fiscal year 2006, the earliest year for which data are available, ridership totaled 512,850. Ridership in fiscal year 2015 is projected to significantly exceed last year’s ridership of 655,484.

In recognition of their increased costs to provide transit service to the University and the increase in student, faculty and staff ridership, Connect Transit has increased the cost for their service. The amount required for providing bus transportation services for the University in fiscal year 2016 totals $519,750. This is the first year the cost for this service has reached the $500,000 threshold.

Connect Transit services support *Educating Illinois* by providing sustainable transportation options to all faculty, staff, and students. Providing alternative transportation options to the campus community, at no charge to the rider, is a tangible demonstration of University commitment to sustainable initiatives. The strategic external partnership that exists between Illinois State University and Connect Transit is mutually beneficial.

Source of Funding: Student Fee and Parking Revenues