

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
June 24, 2022**

The Board of Public Works & Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met June 24, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall. Present were Holly Howe and Steve Poulos. Mayor Murphy was absent. Steve Poulos called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: Holly Howe moved that the minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting be approved. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

Motion: Holly Howe moved that the claims be approved for payment and subject to appropriation balances. Seconded by Steve Poulos and so approved.

CCMG 2021 Change Order – Additional Detector Housing and Loops

Matt Zurbriggen requested approval of a change order for the CCFMG 2021 paving project. During construction it was determined that additional detector housings and loops for traffic signals were needed. This item was not on the original bid tabulation. In order for the contractor to be paid for their work, a change order to add the line item was necessary. This work has already been completed and the amount of this work was \$2,765.00. The Engineering Department requests and recommends the approval of this change order to add the line item “Additional Detector Housing & Loops” as it results in a net zero dollar amount request. This contract amount was \$2,674,000. There was a cost savings of over \$129,000 for this project.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve CCMG 2021 Change Order – Additional Detector Housing and Loops. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

Accept Bid from Allied Sales for the Fire Truck

John Daly requested approval of the bid from Allied Fire Sales & Service LLC for the sale of a 2010 78' E-One Quint fire truck for the purchase price of \$130,002.00.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve the bid of Allied Fire Sales & Service LLC for the sale of a 2010 78' E-One Quint fire truck for the purchase price of \$130,002.00. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

Accept Contract from Allied Sales for the Fire Truck

John Daly requested approval of the Contract for sale of the fire truck in the amount of \$130,002. Attorney Patrick Lyp stated this was approved earlier.

Changes to the Operations Manual

John Daly requested changes to the Operations Manual. The purpose of the Change is to establish funeral procedures for the members of the Valparaiso Fire Department.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve changes to the VFD Operations Manual. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved.

Letter of Engagement – Peterson Consulting Services

Attorney Patrick Lyp requested approval of a Letter of Engagement with Peterson Consulting Services. They propose to assist the City of Valparaiso in preparing the annual update of its capital asset information for financial reporting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. This update will include the capital assets of the City as well as those of the Fire Protection Territory and the Department of Parks and Recreation. This update will not include the capital assets of the Water and Sanitary Sewer utilities.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve the Letter of Engagement with Peterson Consulting Services. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

Property Maintenance/Rental Housing code Violation Matters

Attorney Alfredo Estrada presented a list of properties. They are as follows: 401 Oak Street, 202 Jefferson Street, 602 Calumet Avenue, 707 Center Street, 856 Cyrus Street, 503 Institute Street, 955 Bond Avenue, 2001 Crockett Avenue, 2005 Valparaiso Street, 303 Indiana Avenue, 306 Greenwich Street, and 157 Greenwich Street. After meeting with the property owners, it is his recommendation that there be a dismissal filed for 306 Greenwich, a 60 day continuance on 856 Cyrus, and a 30 day continuance on the remaining properties.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve a dismissal for 306 Greenwich, a 60 day continuance on 856 Cyrus, and a 30 day continuance on the remaining properties as presented. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

Unsafe Building Hearing – 1050 Horse Prairie Avenue

Attorney Estrada advised the property owner has agreed to revert the building back as was stated in the original plan. It will be open air with no HVAC and bathrooms will be disconnected. He requested a two week continuance.

Holly Howe asked if this resolves the issues with FEMA. Attorney Estrada said it will.

Attorney Todd Leeth discussed the work to be done. They will disconnect the bathrooms, but they will be in a fixed location. They are keeping the ramp and deck. They will be removing items but it is not demolition, so they do not need a permit. Attorney Estrada advised he will send an email listing what permits are needed. Attorney Lyp asked that there be a written list of what stays and what goes in regard to the bathrooms.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to continue this matter to the next Board of Works meeting. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved.

Settlement Agreement and Stipulation of Dismissal

Attorney Patrick Lyp requested approval of a Settlement Agreement and Stipulation of Dismissal in a lawsuit filed against Valpo Transmissions, John A. Morgavan, Jr. et. al. The Settlement Agreement sets out that all vehicles on the property over 72 hours will be stored behind a fence. The fence will be constructed so the vehicles cannot be seen from Lincolnway. It also sets out what is and is not allowed on the property and repairs that need to be made. Defendant will apply to the BZA for variances required for the construction of the fence.

Steve Poulos asked about the fence. Attorney Patrick Lyp advised the owners will be attending a BZA meeting to request variances. The fence will be 6' tall. Vehicles of the ongoing business may or may not be seen. Steve Poulos said we will get an easement for maintenance of the drainage ditch. Attorney Lyp explained this is on the far north side of the property. Public Works currently mows that area. This memorializes the City's access to maintain that ditch.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Settlement Agreement and Stipulation of Dismissal with John Morgavan Jr. as presented by Attorney Lyp. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved.

Resolution No. 3 - 2022

Attorney Patrick Lyp requested approval of Resolution No. 3 – 2022. This Resolution revokes Resolution 4-2020 establishing certain 15-minute parking spaces. All signage for these spots will be removed.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve Resolution No. 3 – 2022. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

Request for Street Closures

- Lakeside Terrace Block party, July 4, 2022
- Valpo Events Wine Fest, July 23, 2022
- Kiwanis Corn Roast, August 6, 2022
- Pete's Barbershop Fest, August 6, 2022
- Autumn Trail Annual Gathering g, August 19, 2022

These have been reviewed and approved by all impacted departments.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve the Request for Street Closures as presented. Steve Poulos seconded the motion so approved.

GreatNews.Life Partnership Contract

Maggie Clifton requested approval of a Partnership Proposal with GreatNews.Life. The Partnership Agreement is for social media platforms and content creation. The annual cost of this agreement is \$8,500.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve a Partnership Contract with GreatNews.Life for an annual fee of \$8,500. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

Public Hearing on Proposed Fare Increase for ChicaGo Dash/South Shore Connect and new Hobart Stop for ChicaGo Dash

The City of Valparaiso Board of Works & Safety will conduct a public hearing on June 24, 2022, at 3 pm at Valparaiso City Hall, 166 Lincolnway for a new ChicaGo Dash stop in Hobart and proposed fare increase for the ChicaGo Dash and South Shore Connect bus services.

The proposed fare increase will raise single ride tickets from \$8.00 to \$9.00, 10 ride passes from \$70.00 to \$80.00, and monthly passes from \$230.00 to \$250.00. SS Connect will increase from \$1.00 to \$2.00 each way. The proposed fare increase is attributed to increased operational and fuel cost. If approved, the fare increase will be effective starting September 1, 2022.

The proposed additional stop is targeted for the parking lot at Jubilee Worship Center 415 N Hobart Rd, Hobart, IN. Jubilee, in partnership with the City of Hobart will provide daily dedicated parking Monday-Friday for expansion of ChicaGO Dash commuter bus service in and out of the Chicago Loop to the commuters in Hobart, Merrillville, and surrounding cities. If approved, the new stop location will go into effect on September 1, 2022.

Beth Shrader and Don Lorntzen presented pre-covid ridership numbers and income and current numbers. There have been several requests for a stop in Hobart by the ChicaGo Dash. Today's hearing is just to get comments.

In 2021 they had to shut down the Dash for a few months due to Covid. In 2021 the ridership was 18,345 as compared to 64,000 in 2019 pre Covid. They reduced the routes from 5 to 2. The trend this year is going up but very slow.

Steve Poulos asked about funding. Don explained 33% comes from Federal Grant money. There are EDIT funds. There is money from the RDC. There is advertising on the side of the buses. The proposed increase will generate 22% additional revenue.

Don Lorntzen discussed the Hobart stop. They have had requests to stop in Hobart. They discussed a partnership with Jubilee Worship Center which is on Route 51. Nothing is confirmed. It is an opportunity to help people in other communities get to Chicago. It would be an in and out stop.

Holly Howe asked how it would affect the commute time. Don replied it would depend on how it is done. It could be straight through or a scheduled stop. He does not foresee it every bus stopping there. This Public Hearing has been publicized. He will take comments for two days after this hearing. Holly reminded him they need to remain loyal to the riders they have had over the years.

Steve Poulos declared the Public Hearing open.

In person comments:

Lynch - Sunset Drive. Price increase is ok. Hobart stop is a mistake. They should look at the record of how many times the bus had to go around Hobart because of a road problem.

Chris Kyes – 453 Bond. If the bus stops in Hobart many would not get to work on time. Often times the road is closed in Hobart.

On Line Comments:

Tim-Valparaiso. Long term when Journeymen's is open how will it affect traffic and ridership and cost in general.

Teresa McGinley – 25E 150S. If they raise the rates will they maintain the buses better? Recently there was no air conditioning and a loud squeaking noise. The brakes are failing. She agrees with the rest on the Hobart stop.

Chat – How quick will the Hobart stop be added.

E-mails:

From: Farley, Karol <kfarley@usg.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Hi Don,

Some Pace vans have started running, mostly on a part time basis, so I would still be interested in the Hobart stop. Please let me know when the meeting is scheduled, and hopefully I will be available to attend virtually. I currently receive the Dash alerts if that is how you will be sharing the meeting date.

I appreciate the update!

Karol

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 12:06 PM
To: Farley, Karol <kfarley@usg.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Hello Karol,

As we are working closer to adding a Dash stop in Hobart this summer. I am curious to know if you are still interested in using the Dash from Hobart?

Has the Pace vans started running again or are they still not servicing NW Indiana for commuters to Chicago?

I will be posting a public comment and hearing soon for a meeting at the Valparaiso Board of Works for some time in June. Would this be something you can attend in person or by a Virtual link into that meeting?

Thanks for your interest and I hope to hear from you.

Thank you,

Don Lorntzen

From: Farley, Karol <kfarley@usg.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Re: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Yes - I live one mile off 130 in Wheeler so I currently backtrack to get on the bus. I hope the plan to add a stop in Hobart works out. I'm sharing this info with a few of my co-workers that were also on van pools.

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:50:35 PM
To: Farley, Karol <kfarley@usg.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Hello Karol,

Have you been driving to Valpo to ride the Dash?

Don Lorntzen

From: Farley, Karol <kfarley@usg.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>; Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenergy.com>
Subject: Re: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Thanks for including me! I know the church you are referring to on 130.

I've been riding the bus on occasion over the last 6 months. It will be great to have a stop in Hobart!

Thank you,

Karol

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:38:39 PM
To: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenenergy.com>
Cc: Farley, Karol <kfarley@usg.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Thank you Kim,

I will be meeting with the City of Hobart next week to discuss this stop further. They may have a proposed parking and pick up drop off location of a large church on 130. That is on the Dash route in and out bound. Would this work for you if it all pans out?

Don Lorntzen

From: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenenergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Cc: kfarley@usg.com
Subject: RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

My van met us all at the Paragon restaurant parking lot (big lot) on Hwy 6. I know there was another that picked up at the Strack and Van Till parking lot on 6. I am going to wrap in another of my van riders who has been riding with PACE for much longer than me and will probably know a lot more interested people.

Her name Karol and she is copied in.

Thanks!

Kim Gibbons | Senior Manager, Land Development
Invenenergy LLC | One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606
kgibbons@invenenergyllc.com | 312-582-1739

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenenergy.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Was there a certain location that these vans picked up these riders?

Don Lorntzen

From: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenenergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Don,

Thank you for the email. I will try to answer you the best I can. Before Covid my vanpool left Hobart around 6:20. My employer is pretty flexible though so there could be wiggle room there. Until/if my van goes back into service I would use the service every day, well 3 days as a week as we will be able to work from home 2.

I personally only know of 2-3 however I think there were over 20 Pace Vanpools leaving Hobart daily and many of them have either disbanded or will not be up and running until next year. I hope this helps!

Kim Gibbons | Senior Manager, Land Development
Invenergy LLC | One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606
kgibbons@invenergyllc.com | 312-582-1739

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenergy.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Hello Kim,

Just a follow up to your email,

If we were to add a stop in Hobart for the Dash. What departure times would work for you and your fellow riders? How often would you use the service?

We would not have ticket sales available in Hobart but in app purchases of 10 ride and monthly passes are available on the Token Transit app as well as exact fare cash on the bus.

How many folks do you know that would utilize the service with a stop in Hobart?

Thank you!

Don Lorntzen

From: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Thank you so much for your very prompt response! This is amazing news. I will certainly contact him. Thank you.

Kim Gibbons | Senior Manager, Land Development
Invenergy LLC | One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606
kgibbons@invenergyllc.com | 312-582-1739

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 12:17 PM

To: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenenergy.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Hello Kimberley,

We are currently in discussion with the Mayors office about adding a stop along the route in Hobart in the near future.
You can contact Mayor Snedecor office just to let them know you have interest in a Chicago Dash stop in Hobart.

Don Lorntzen

From: Gibbons, Kimberley <KGibbons@invenenergy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 12:03 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Question About Chicago Dash/Hobart

Hi Don,

My name is Kim Gibbons and I live in Hobart Indiana. Prior to the pandemic I rode in a Pace Vanpool to and from Downtown Chicago every day to get to and from my office. I used to see the Chicago Dash almost daily as they pass right through Hobart. I was wondering if you all had ever considered a stop in Hobart, not one that would take you out of the way but along your current route? My van is currently on hold until the driver has the go ahead to return to his office downtown. I know of one other lady on my van who is in the same position as me but I imagine there are likely many others in Hobart who would love to utilize this service. I appreciate your time and thank you!

Kim

Kim Gibbons | Senior Manager, Land Development
Invenenergy LLC | One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606
kgibbons@invenenergyllc.com | 312-582-1739

From: Karyn <karyn8660@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 6:06 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Re: Hobart stop

749 W. Joliet Rd, Hobart IN.

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:04:02 PM
To: Karyn <karyn8660@msn.com>
Subject: RE: Hobart stop

Thank you Karyn for your comments.

Please provide your address and I will read your comments to the Board for consideration.

Thank you,

Don Lorntzen

From: Karyn <Karyn8660@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:52 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Hobart stop

I just want to say I am taking valpo dash now and will be taking hobart stop when available. Wondering about the timing. I take last bus leaving which is already cutting it close for my work arrival. Will bus be leaving 10 min earlier to accommodate? If not. I will take previous bus. But if everyone has same idea, bus will be full and 3rd bus will hardly have anyone on.? Also want to comment on the great drivers you have!

From: Ann <anndolezal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 2:07 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Re: Modified Alert Notice of public hearing and comment session for ci.valparaiso.in.us

1210 Lake Superior Road #102
Valparaiso, IN 46383

On Jun 21, 2022, at 12:01 PM, Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us> wrote:

Hello Ann,

Can you please provide your address if you would like your comment read at the Board of works meeting this Friday?

Thank you,
Don Lorntzen

From: Ann <anndolezal@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 5:43 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Fwd: Modified Alert Notice of public hearing and comment session for ci.valparaiso.in.us

Don,

I am not opposed to the fare increase but I am opposed to an additional stop in Hobart.

Thanks,

Ann Dolezal

312-805-8697

From: Rowland, Kristan <kristan.rowland@ubs.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 10:21 AM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: Chicago Dash Service

Hello,

Just curious about the rationale behind adding the Hobart stop.

I realize it probably has to do with low ridership in this post-pandemic period, but my concern is that ridership is going to pick up significantly with higher gas prices.

Also, so you all are aware, people that use the South Shore Line, use the Chicago Dash as their backup service for getting home. One day, the train went out of service and I couldn't get on my bus to ride home and had to wait for them to send another bus out to pick some of us up because it was too full.

Best,

Kristan



Kristan Rowland, CFA
Portfolio Manager
UBS Wealth Management
1 N. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
312-525-4224

From: kernsd@gtlaw.com <kernsd@gtlaw.com>

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 10:10 AM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: RE: Comments re Upcoming Changes

My street address? 4403 Kingsdale Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383

-Denise

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 10:05 AM

To: Kerns, Denise R. (LSS-Chi-CP) <kernsd@gtlaw.com>

Subject: RE: Comments re Upcoming Changes

Thank you for your comments Denise!

I will add these to the list of concerns from our riders on the proposed changes to the Dash.

Please provide your address for me if you would like them to be read to the Board of works.

Thank you,

Don Lorntzen

From: kernsd@gtlaw.com <kernsd@gtlaw.com>

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 8:53 AM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: Comments re Upcoming Changes

Hi Don!

I received the email regarding the upcoming meeting/changes to our beloved ChicagoDash. I totally understand about raising prices; however, I do have a question: Right now the Federal max that can be deducted from our check for transit purposes is \$230.00. Will you be taking the \$230 through WageWorks and then how does the balance get paid? I mean \$230 won't cover the \$250 (monthly) or \$240 (3 10 rides – which I'm currently doing). Will you be "carrying" that balance due of \$20 or \$10, as the case may be, so we can somehow log in and pay the difference? Or will WageWorks just not work b/c the \$230 isn't enough? Do we just forgo the whole WageWorks/tax break thing and pay it all out of pocket?

Regarding the Hobart stop, of course, I am rather unhappy about extending my already too-long commute to a longer one, but most importantly, it will make me late to the office.... Thereby making me have to work later and take a later bus, getting home even later – for a longer day. Isn't there a way you can use like 3 buses for Valpo and assign the remaining 2 buses to Hobart/Merrillville??? Then adjust as necessary down the line? It makes more sense than for all of us to have to adjust our schedules. I'm already on the earliest bus possible! Or maybe you could start each route 15 minutes earlier so we won't be late for work???

Just my thoughts – thank you for your consideration.

-Denise

Denise R. Kerns

Legal Assistant to

David LaSota, Michael Robson and Colin DeHoney

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

77 West Wacker Drive | Suite 3100 | Chicago, IL 60601

T +1 312.364.1625

kernsd@gtlaw.com | www.gtlaw.com



-----Original Message-----

From: V Todorovic <alpe644@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Re: Adding stop to existing Dash routes

Don,

My full name and address:

Vesna Todorovic
480 Wexford Rd.
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Thanks for your help!

Sent from Vesna's iPhone

> On Jun 20, 2022, at 7:32 AM, Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your comments Vesna,

>

> Please provide your address if you would like your comments read before the Board.

>

>

> Thank you,

>

> Don Lorntzen

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: V Todorovic <alpe644@comcast.net>

> Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 7:05 AM

> To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

> Subject: Adding stop to existing Dash routes

>

> To City of Valparaiso:

>

> I have been Chicago Dash , monthly pass commuter since the end of 2010. It has been good, safe, reliable and green service so far.

> Our commute is long as it is, just pure geography, nothing can be done about that.

>

> Regarding adding any kind of stop to the route, my vote is: absolutely NOT.

>

> At least not to all busses and specially not to the first one. I am not against expending services but adding 10 to 15 minutes each way with additional stop will change schedule and travel dynamic significantly! First that will easily add half an hour to already long daily time on the road. 5 to 10 minutes more and a lot of us will be late for work and we will have to stay unnecessary longer in the city to take later bus.

> City can dedicate separate bus that will serve Hobart, Merrillville and surrounding area only. Do not additionally strain out existing Valparaiso-Chicago routs please.

- >
- > Questions:
 - > Has City of Valparaiso hired any specialty company to do any planning study, survey in this new area/population of interest? What are the findings?
 - > After such study it would be prudent to do a test ride for some period of time to see dynamics and counts in real life?
 - > Has City of Valparaiso done any test rides, and I don't mean rides for few days, I mean few months? What are the findings?
- >
- > Commuters and community would appreciate very much if City of Valparaiso would share , publish any report or study, findings that it has obtained in professional and educated manner.
- >
- > At the end, personally, just having longer commute time than it is now is too much and not acceptable for me. If there is not early bus that is Valparaiso to Chicago, no additional stops or rerouting I will most likely, after 11 years o

From: Jackie <jackiejpop@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:12 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Re: Public Hearing - June 24th

34 Lockerbie Dr
Valparaiso IN 46385

On Jun 21, 2022, at 12:05 PM, Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us> wrote:

Hello Jackie,

Can you please provide your address so I can read your comment at the Board of Works this Friday?

Thank you,
Don Lorntzen

From: Jacqueline Popravak <jackiejpop@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:24 AM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Public Hearing - June 24th

Don-

Please explain why this hearing is being held at 3pm when none of the Chicago Dash commuters are back into the city until at least 5:30pm. The Zoom option does nothing for us that are working during that time.

Seems to me you really don't want the public's input.

I can understand the need for a price increase; however, the additional stop will now impact our already long commute times and driver flexibility during construction, detours, etc.

Current riders have a right to be heard and by holding this hearing so early in the day, you are prohibiting us from having a voice.

Sincerely,
Jackie Popravak
Chicago Dash Rider since 2013

From: Rowland, Kristan <kristan.rowland@ubs.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:23 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: RE: Chicago Dash Service

Hi Don,

My address is
209 Fox Chapel Court
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Thanks Don. Also, if this was to build ridership for an eventual Commuter Train line to Chicago, I'd be all for the stop. But you told me that was unfortunately not in the cards.

Given the commute time, I'd rather pay an additional \$2 each way to \$10/ride vs have a stop that adds more time to my commute.

Thanks.
Kristan Rowland
From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Rowland, Kristan <kristan.rowland@ubs.com>
Subject: [External] RE: Chicago Dash Service

Hello Kristan,

Please provide your address if you would like your comments read at the Board of Works meeting this Friday?

Thank you,
Don Lorntzen

From: Rowland, Kristan <kristan.rowland@ubs.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Chicago Dash Service

Hello,

Just curious about the rationale behind adding the Hobart stop.

I realize it probably has to do with low ridership in this post-pandemic period, but my concern is that ridership is going to pick up significantly with higher gas prices.

Also, so you all are aware, people that use the South Shore Line, use the Chicago Dash as their backup service for getting home. One day, the train went out of service and I couldn't get on my bus to ride home and had to wait for them to send another bus out to pick some of us up because it was too full.

Best,
Kristan



.Kristan Rowland, CFA
Portfolio Manager
UBS Wealth Management
1 N. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
312-525-4224

From: Morris, Rhoda <rhoda.morris@morganlewis.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:27 PM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: RE: ? on fare increase upcoming

Yes, me too! 😊 Thank you for quick response!

Rhoda Morris

Legal Secretary

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

110 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2800 | Chicago, IL 60606-1511

Direct: +1.312.324.1157 | Main: +1.312.324.1000 | Fax: +1.312.324.1001

rhoda.morris@morganlewis.com | www.morganlewis.com

Assistant to: Deborah S. Davidson, Beth Herrington, Sari M. Alamuddin, Ami Wynne

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:25 PM

To: Morris, Rhoda <rhoda.morris@morganlewis.com>

Subject: RE: ? on fare increase upcoming

Rhoda,

I do hope that we can start to add the normal routes back into service soon!
With the ridership still being so low. We can not yet justify the cost it takes to run an almost empty bus in and out of Chicago every day.

I really hope it does recover soon and we can get back to more normal routes.

Thanks,

Don Lorntzen

From: Morris, Rhoda <rhoda.morris@morganlewis.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:13 PM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: RE: ? on fare increase upcoming

Of course Don! Also can you let me know if we ever plan the normal bus time schedule route, where it the bus would leave Wacker and Clark at 4:22 instead of 4:10? Just wondering as I do everything I can to make that 4:20 bus at 350 South Clark but it sure does cut it close. I work until 4 and cannot make the 4:10 departure at Clark and Wacker where I would prefer to catch my bus home. Just asking. Thanks much! Rhoda

Rhoda Morris
3084 Sunrise Drive
Crown Point, IN 46307

Rhoda Morris

Legal Secretary

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

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Assistant to: Deborah S. Davidson, Beth Herrington, Sari M. Alamuddin, Ami Wynne

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:04 PM

To: Morris, Rhoda <rhoda.morris@morganlewis.com>

Subject: RE: ? on fare increase upcoming

Hello Rhoda,

Can you please provide your address so I can read your comment at the Board of Works meeting this Friday?

Thank you,

Don Lorntzen

From: Morris, Rhoda <rhoda.morris@morganlewis.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:33 AM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: ? on fare increase upcoming

Hi Don, I hope this message finds you well. If I purchase several 10-riders at \$70 now, will they work after fare increase takes place? Please advise. Thank you very much. Sincerely, Rhoda

Rhoda Morris

Legal Secretary

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

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Assistant to: Deborah S. Davidson, Beth Herrington, Sari M. Alamuddin, Ami Wynne

From: DEBORAH KUCHTA <dakuchta@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 1:43 PM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: RE: Modified Alert Notice of public hearing and comment session for ci.valparaiso.in.us

My comments for the meeting would be obviously no for a price increase. It would seem as a lose - lose situation for the Valpo ridership. We would pay more money for the commute, but then the commute time would increase because we would stop in Hobart, and that would add a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes each way or an additional 30 minutes each day. Unless a person commutes every day, one doesn't understand how important that additional 30 minutes can be. One of the reasons we choose the Dash bus is because it is a direct route. No stops. This stop will be disruptive to the peaceful commute we have now with no interruptions to work, sleep or reading.

What happens to the days that there are accidents and we would bypass Hobart?. We would have no flexibility because we still have to get those people back to Hobart no matter how long it would take. What price would the Hobart people pay? Would they pay less money? Has there been any communication regarding a reduced rate for over 65-year-old riders as the South Shore does?

Would you add busses to the routes? The first bus for both the morning and afternoon routes are full and awkward because several individuals refuse to share their seats. Why not have the day trippers or the people who don't buy a monthly increase their fare and not the monthly riders?

Observation – why hold a meeting at a time when the commuters are not available? Why not hold the hearing in the evening so that the commuters affected could participate?

Deborah Kuchta
4903 N Calumet Avenue
Valparaiso, IN 46383

On 06/21/2022 1:08 PM DEBORAH KUCHTA <dakuchta@comcast.net> wrote:

Ok - let me update my comments a bit. I will update and send you my address with the comments.

On 06/21/2022 12:02 PM Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us> wrote:

Hello Debra,

Can you please provide your address if you would like your comment read at the Board of works meeting this Friday?

Thank you,

Don Lorntzen

From: DEBORAH KUCHTA <dakuchta@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:56 AM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: Fwd: Modified Alert Notice of public hearing and comment session for ci.valparaiso.in.us

My comments for the meeting would be obviously no for a price increase. It would seem as a lose - lose situation. We would pay more money for the commute, but then the commute time would increase because we would stop in Hobart, and that would add a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes easy each way. I would assume that the Hobart commuters would pay less money which would seem unfair since they are causing the hardship to the Valpo ridership. One reason the bus is a good choice is that it saves time, but now the City is talking about adding 30 minutes a day to the ride? I don't understand who thinks of these ideas. Why would any of us want to increase our commuting time? It's similiar to the parking lot. Whoever thought of the parking lot wasn't a commute or a bus driver.

Has there been any communication regarding a reduced rate for over 65 riders as the South Shore does?

How do we deal with the commuters on the bus who won't move over to let someone sit with them. They make it very uncomfortable because they sit on the aisle seat and pretend they don't see anyone so it's the same people who share seats. If the people don't want to share, then they should pay more for two seats.

Why not have the day trippers or the people who don't buy a monthly increase their fare and not the monthly riders?

Deborah Kuchta

-----Original Message-----

From: Laurie Kleist <lkleist33@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:37 PM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: Re: Fare increase and additional stop

Laureen Kleist
2866 Arran Quay Terrace
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385

> On Jun 21, 2022, at 3:49 PM, Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your comments Laurie.

> Please provide your address and I will read them to the Board for consideration of your requests and concerns.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Don Lorntzen

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Laurie Kleist <kleist33@gmail.com>

> Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:40 PM

> To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

> Subject: Fare increase and additional stop

>

> Don,

> I think adding another stop will delay travel both to and from . I have stopped taking the Dash for the sole reason of your timing . You have 3 buses that don't accommodate the people that need to be at Randolph at 6:30 am and picked up by 5:30pm. Before covid you had a bus leave at 5:25 (or 5:30?)am which still got me in late but I made it work . I have to start work as do many people at 7 am and an end time of 5 pm. Your ridership would increase if you would change some of these departures.

>

> The South Shore is going to start busing people in August. Many riders are looking for alternatives because trust me after a long day, the last thing you want to do is be bused from Gary Metro to Duneland park . (The trains are getting very busy because people are back to work)This project is going to go on for a great length of time . Honestly, if the Dash would jump on this, the ridership would increase . I have taken the train and the bus . The bus by far is the best way to commute ! Adding another stop with the time frame you have now would be the farthest thing from working in my favor or others that punch a time clock! I just wish you would consider changing some of these departure times!! Give it a chance before knocking it down . I would spread the word to the people I ride with . Ideally a 5:10 am leave would be great with Randolph as the first drop off in the morning . I honestly wish the Dash would give this a chance !

>

> Ridership fares I would not have a complaint if the Dash could get me to Randolph at 6:30 am and picked up at 5:30 pm!!!

> Sincerely,

> Laureen Kleist

From: Urbanski, Christina (CHICO) <christina.urbanski@hyatt.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 9:03 AM

To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>

Subject: Comments to public hearing on the Dash

Hi Don, I hope all is well.

I have no problem with the ticket price being raised. It's expected and it really is a great deal. I do take issue with the new stop. What happens when the bus needs to deviate to 30 to 49 to 90 due to road work or an accident? Backtracking to Hobart would add extra time to the already long commute. I understand that the City wants to draw in more riders to make it more economically viable for the City. With the three current busses, there is a possibility that every seat will be taken and some turned away (which happened pre-covid). I'd much rather a \$2 rate hike each way than an additional stop.

If there was an additional stop, it would need to be a load and go to not add time to the Valpo residents' commute.

Many thanks for passing this on.

Kind regards,

Christina Urbanski

From: Urbanski, Christina (CHICO) <christina.urbanski@hyatt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: RE: Comments to public hearing on the Dash

2210 Clear Brook Drive
Valparaiso 46385
Thanks!

From: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 9:48 AM
To: Urbanski, Christina (CHICO) <christina.urbanski@hyatt.com>
Subject: RE: Comments to public hearing on the Dash

Hello Christina,
Thank you for your comments. Please provide your address if you would like me to read this to the board for your consideration.

Thank you,
Don Lorntzen

From: Lauer Reder, Rita J. <Rita.LauerReder@klgates.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: ChicagoDash Changes

Mr. Lorntzen,

This is in response to the announced changes to ChicagoDash. I understand there will be an increase in the bus fare. This is understandable in light that there has not been an increase in the years it has been running, and also in light of current gas prices.

The newly announced additional stop in Hobart is unsettling, at best. I have been a rider since soon after the bus service started in 2008. I have been purchasing monthly passes. I currently take the first bus to Chicago and the first bus back to Valpo. My schedule requires me to be at my desk at 7:30 AM. If we start making a stop in Hobart, I will be late. This additional stop in Hobart in the evening will make my arrival time at home even later than it currently is. Also, leaving the planned stop in Hobart will involve a left turn across busy traffic lanes, creating unsafe conditions and further delays.

Have there been any surveys provided to support this planned stop? If so, are the results of any such surveys available to the public? How many riders will be added with a stop in Hobart? Is there any proof that this is of benefit to the City of Valparaiso? Another question would be why doesn't Hobart get their own bus system started? Why is Hobart riding on the shirrtails of Valparaiso's hard work in the development of the ChicagoDash system?

If the City of Valparaiso is determined to add this stop, has any consideration been given to have a later bus make this stop? Those who ride the first bus are doing so to accommodate their work schedule, not for the joy of starting our day so early.

Please reconsider the Hobart stop.

Thank you.
Rita Lauer Reder
2203 Eisenhower Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383



Rita Lauer Reder
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70 W. Madison St.
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Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (312) 558-5030
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rita.lauer@klgates.com

www.klgates.com

From: Albers, Debra <DAIbers@ico.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Don Lorntzen <dlorntzen@valpo.us>
Subject: Comments RE: Chicago Dash Public Hearing

Good Afternoon,

I have a few observations I would like to make concerning the changes proposed for the Chicago Dash. I think the rate hike is appropriate and reasonable.

I am concerned about adding a stop to the Dash schedule. It will add a significant amount of time (15 minutes, I think is a reasonable estimation). That may not seem like a lot of time but it means getting to my place of employment even later since I catch a CTA bus when I get into the city.) if you add another stop, I strongly suggest that at least one or two having one or two runs be a non-stop from Valpo to Chicago. (this is based on the expectation there will once again be 5 bus runs instead of the current 3.)

IF all three current bus stops end up stopping in Hobart, I am likely to take the bus less. I take the bus two to three days a week and have been since October of 2021.

I am disappointed this meeting comes at 3 p.m. in the afternoon. Those of us who take the bus into the city have no way to attend. A Zoom meeting is not sufficient as it comes in the midst of a workday. The time and day of this meeting in no way demonstrates the city's desire to engage, in-person, with the very riders who use the service.

Based on my previous experience with the city of Valparaiso Public meetings, I am confident the decision has already been made to raise the rate and add a stop. A public meeting is required but, it will not impact the result already determined by the powers that be. I share my comments so they are on record.

Sincerely,
Debra Albers
401 Lafayette St
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Debra Albers
Director of Student Engagement
Illinois College of Optometry
Chicago, IL

Don Lorntzen explained according to FTA and NIRPC compliance regulations, this hearing has to be before the Board of Works. This Board meets at 3:00 in the afternoon. Passes will remain active but new ones will have the increase if approved. They will work with WageWorks for paycheck deductions.

Steve Poulos asked if the number of buses would increase if the ridership continued to increase. Steve Poulos asked who maintains the buses.

Don Lorntzen replied Royal Excursions does the maintenance. The buses are 12 years old. If ridership increases, they expect to add buses. Departure times are still being discussed. They will use the most popular times. Once Journeymen is complete, they do expect an increase in traffic in the evenings. The City is working on intersections leading up to the parking lot to improve traffic flow.

Lynch -Sunset Drive. He hopes maintenance is done. It is scary sitting along side the Toll Road in Hammond with a broken down bus.

Seeing no one else wanting to address the Board, Steve Poulos closed the Public Hearing.

Holly Howe asked why they are wanting to add Hobart as a stop. Don Lorntzen explained there have been requests. Adding Hobart as a stop will increase ridership, fares, and visibility.

Beth Shrader explained they will take the comments and recommendations and come up with a plan. That will be brought to the Board of Works for approval.

Glendale Road Closure

Max Rehlander requested the closure of Glendale from June 27 thorough June 30, 2022. Coolman Builders is performing utility work for a residential development on Glendale for the new subdivision Glenwood, formerly Serenity. Coolman Builders have presented detour routes. The Engineering Department, VCU, and PMO have met to discuss the road closure and recommend approval of the request.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve the Glendale Road closure from June 27 through June 30, 2022. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

502 Franklin Parking for Master Gardeners Tour

Mike Jabo requested approval to allow parking on both sides of the street on Franklin from Institute to Hickory on June 25, 2022. Porter County Master Gardeners are having their tour of homes and expect 250-300 people at six locations. Bob Coolman's residence is on the tour. He will make his own signs and post them. Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department and Engineering Department have reviewed and recommend approval of this request.

Motion: Holly Howe moved to approve allowing parking on both sides of the street on Franklin from Institute to Hickory from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on June 25, 2022. Steve Poulos seconded the motion and so approved.

Kroger Gardis & Regas LLP Engagement Letter and Proposal

Attorney Patrick Lyp requested approval of an Engagement Letter and Proposal with Kroger Gardis & Regas. They will be helping in the review of the City's existing district map to ensure they comply with Indiana law. This happens after a census and before the first municipal election. There is a not-to-exceed number of \$40,000. The cost will be paid by the City from Local Income Tax Fund.

Motion: Steve Poulos moved to approve the Engagement Letter and Proposal with Kroger Gardis and Regas. Holly Howe seconded the motion and so approved.

Public Comment - None

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.