



Bis-Man Transit delivers valued public transportation, linking people, jobs and communities.

Fixed-Route City Transportation Networks Study

September 25, 2025

Chairman Hagert and committee members,

My name is Deidre Hughes, and I serve as the Executive Director of Bis-Man Transit, providing transportation services to the communities of Bismarck, Mandan, and Lincoln. Today, I stand with the other urban transit agencies in North Dakota to advocate for sustainable funding solutions that ensure the vitality of our public transportation systems.

Since 1989, Bis-Man Transit's paratransit services have been a lifeline for elderly residents and individuals with disabilities, connecting them to medical appointments, workplaces, and community activities. However, it was not until 2004—15 years later—that we introduced fixed-route services for the general public. This delay left our growing region underserved and created persistent funding challenges that continue to impact our operations. Today, fixed-route services account for 60% of our ridership, reflecting their critical role in meeting the transportation needs of the Capital Area.

Despite this demand, rising operational costs and the high expense of purchasing and maintaining rolling stock put a strain on our budget. Without reliable, ongoing funding, we risk limiting access to affordable transportation that drives economic growth, supports independence, and enhances quality of life for thousands of residents.

I strongly support the proposed study of fixed-route city transportation networks. This study presents an opportunity to identify innovative and equitable funding solutions that can secure the future of public transit across our state.

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving transportation in North Dakota. I am happy to answer any questions.



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