

1 **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
2 **Cache Valley Transit District**
3 **DBA Connect Transit**
4 **Wednesday, February 26, 2025**
5 **5:30 pm**
6 **Logan Library**
7 **285 N. Main St., Logan, Utah**
8 **Community Room A**
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11 *Present:* Lieren Hansen, Flor Estrada, Mike Arnold, Glen Schmidt, and Shaun Bushman
12

13 *Excused:* David Geary, Ron Bushman, and Jeff Turley
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15 *Others:* Todd Beutler, Curtis Roberts, Jody Kimball, and Charise VanDyke
16

17 **Regular Meeting Agenda**
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- 19 1. *Call to order:* Board Chair Lieren Hansen
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21 2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Shaun Bushman
22
23 3. Consent Agenda: Lieren Hansen asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.
24 Shaun Bushman moved; Flor Estrada seconded. Vote unanimous.
25 A. Approval of Agenda
26 B. Acceptance of Minutes – January 22, 2025
27 C. Next Board Meeting – March 26, 2025
28
29 4. Public comments: No comments or questions.
30

31 **Board Business**

32 **5. Board Business:**

- 33 A. Consideration of Zero-Emission Vehicle Transition - Lieren Hansen, Board Chair:
34 Last month there was a presentation on the Zero-Emission Transition Study by a
35 consultant from Kimley-Horn (who conducted the study). They presented on the
36 different bus types and the challenges with each. The Board can discuss what
37 direction or policy to give Connect about a zero-emission vehicle transition.
38 Discussion about hybrid buses. Connect Transit has had hybrid buses. The
39 experience with hybrid buses was that there were not substantial savings between
40 them and diesel and diesel buses (with filters) were the cleanest in emissions by a
41 small margin. Overall, there was not a substantial enough difference to benefit
42 Connect, but the technology may improve over time. Discussion about the push

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43 for zero-emissions buses. There is no mandate to switch. With the previous
44 administration, there was a push for zero-emission vehicles, so more funding was
45 available for them. Discussion about the challenges with a zero-emission bus
46 transition. The range of battery electric (electric) and fuel cell electric (hydrogen)
47 buses is smaller than diesel buses and not where we want to see it. There are also
48 operational challenges with electric and hydrogen buses like having to change
49 how service is implemented due to issues with the range in cold temperatures and
50 less overall range capability than Connect’s current diesel vehicles. There are also
51 extra costs associated with them such as having to buy multiple buses to replace
52 one diesel bus (due to the range issues), to build additional infrastructure, and to
53 train maintenance employees on the new vehicle types. Lieren Hansen asked for a
54 motion on the zero-emission vehicle transition. Shaun Bushman moved that
55 Connect Transit doesn’t adopt a transition to zero-emission buses and that the
56 board reassesses zero-emission vehicles in 3 to 5 years. Mike Arnold seconded.
57 Vote unanimous.

58
59 **6. Management Report:**

- 60 A. Social Media Engagement - Todd Beutler, CEO\General Manager: There’s been a
61 focus for the last few months on growing our social media presence. As part of
62 these efforts, we did a “love bus” event with Rumor (our marketing consultant)
63 around Valentine’s Day. The event had a lot of positive feedback (with only one
64 negative comment) and an increase in social media activity. During the week of
65 the event, there was an increase in engagement on both Facebook (+29%) and
66 Instagram (+158.6%) and an increase in visits on both Facebook (+118.9%) and
67 Instagram (+82.1%).
68
- 69 B. Legislative visit to DC – Todd Beutler, CEO\General Manager: This coming visit
70 in March will be with the Community Transportation Association of America
71 (CTAA). One focus of the visit is to assess what is going on politically and to see
72 if there are opportunities to refine or make changes with the emphasis on
73 government waste right now in DC. One possible opportunity is to right size the
74 DBE program for smaller agencies. The DC visit with the Connect Board Chair
75 will take place in April this year.
76
- 77 C. Update on facility transition – Jody Kimball, Operations Manager: The move-in
78 date has been pushed back to April 14. The employee training for the new facility
79 (how to park inside the bus storage) has been going well.
80

81 **7. Board Chair Report:**

- 82 A. Recognition of employee anniversaries - Lieren Hansen, Board Chair: Employee
83 anniversaries include 15 years for Mark Christensen (maintenance technician).
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8. Public comments: No questions or comments.

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9. **Adjourn:** Board Chair Lieren Hansen adjourned the meeting.