Connect Transit

City of Bloomington Council Update
Transit is an Essential Service

- Connect employees work during pandemic

- Community reliance on transit
  - Grocery clerks, medical staff
  - Essential employees are critical to our community,
COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

- **Bus Cleaning and Disinfecting**
  - Cleaning/disinfecting every 4 hours
  - Increased cleaning cost
  - Operators cleaning buses

- **Passenger Limit**
  - 10 passenger limit on fixed route
  - 3 passenger limit on Connect Mobility

- **Rear-door boarding**
- **Mask or face covering required**
- **Social distancing**
- **COVID-19 Testing Site Service**
Connect to the Future Recommendations

- Work Group Charge and Scope
- Recommendations
  - One Rate for All
  - Expansion of CM Service to Town and City limits
  - Better Bus Stop Campaign completion 2024
  - Sustainable Funding Detail
    - 1st year $250,000 investment
    - 2nd year $500,000 investment
  - Future Action with Additional Funding
Investment of $250,000 Request

- **Plan Prior to COVID-19**
  - One Rate for All and CM Expansion to City and Town Limits - $28,946
  - Zero Fare Green Route Pilot - $20,000
  - Remaining investment would have decreased the federal dollars contributed to the operating budget

- **Revised Investment due to COVID-19**
  - One Rate for All - $225,000
  - CM Expansion to City and Town Limits - $25,000
Operations and Budget Challenges

- **Restoring Full-Service and collecting fares**
  - Full-Service is being restored in August
  - Drastic ridership decrease in March and steady rise in June
  - Fare collection suspended since mid-March
  - Must continue to provide essential transit service safely
    - Face coverings and physical distancing
    - Regular cleaning / disinfecting of vehicles
    - Mobile Ticketing
    - Interior Displays

- **Revenue**
  - State (IDOT) revenue is unknown beyond 1\textsuperscript{st} quarter
  - CARES Act (federal) funding will help replace revenue
  - COVID-19 emphasizes the importance of reserve funding
QUESTIONS
Use of Large Buses

- **Myth vs. Fact**
  - Operating smaller buses will not save Connect millions of dollars
  - Operating Small buses
    - Decreased customer satisfaction, increased complaints
    - Potentially increase operating/capital costs
  - Studies conducted in other communities regarding bus size

- **Bus size matches peak ridership demand**
  - Roads are engineered and built for peak demand
  - Standardized fleet to meet peak ridership demand

- **Operating Costs**
  - 75% of the cost of operating a bus is operator wages/benefits
  - No different than any service industry
  - Largest investment is in employees, not equipment
Use of Large Buses

- Next Bus Order – Battery Electric Buses
  - Adding 35’ buses into vehicle fleet
  - Extremely quiet and zero emissions
  - Lower operating costs
  - Funding provided by Federal and State grant