

To: The City of Fort Wayne Common Council

From: Howard Traxmor, Appointed to Citilink Public Transportation Corp. Board of Directors

Upon my completion of voluntary service to the City of Fort Wayne with approximately 2 ½ years served on the Citilink board as of December 2020, I am pleased to present my final report “pursuant to Fort Wayne Code §33.001 (B) (2), a brief synopsis of progress or activities of the board and the amount of time being dedicated to these endeavors,” as summoned by Megan Flohr, City Council Administrator.

First I would like to thank you for your confidence in my service, it has been an honor to work for Citilink and their many fine transportation professionals, staff and board.

My term started in May 2018 as the remainder of a vacated term ending January 2021. I approached Citilink board service as a long-time bus rider so my earlier career as a consumer advocate provided much of the formation of my perspective. Accountability was a primary driver during my 32 months on board. As such I was able to support rudimentary progress in public access to the Board’s business documents including the minutes of the monthly meetings posted online <http://www.fwcitilink.com/board-meeting-minutes.php> .

Synopsis: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

I have attended all monthly meetings, a wide variety of transit conferences and webinars (no travel required pre-pandemic or during pandemic), plus read and studied a variety of transit literature (all at nominal printing or subscription cost to Citilink or free online with much of it documented on [www.3riversweb.org/PTC](http://www.3riversweb.org/PTC) , a webpage developed with my resources at my expense may assist you in rendering year to year assessment of my work). I have participated in the public planning of new bus routes, the review and approval of a new union contract for the drivers, attended State legislative information sharing events including asking for more State funding, urging our federal legislative representatives to support public transit, sharing information across transit interests including for passenger rail, generating goodwill via service on the marketing committee and otherwise fulfilling the common and promoting the urgent duties of board membership.

I have advocated for making public transportation a leading institution in the fight against carbon pollution. While I have not been successful in any significant gains for the re-electrification of Fort Wayne’s public transportation, including power from renewable energy, I can now confidently conclude that local, regional, state and federal public transit planning is grossly underfunded to the tasks at hand. Grant requests to that end by local transit planning have been denied for inadequate strategic planning, however the simple reason is lack of sufficient State and Federal funding to meet demand for marginalized cities such as Fort Wayne. I served briefly on the city’s Public Transportation Committee and could see first-hand the lack of resources dedicated to the problems at the confluence of transportation and energy for northeast Indiana. We are facing a climate emergency that requires the coordination of the transit and energy sectors, however their convergence lacks broader planning and funding.

On December 9, 2019 a pedestrian named Sherri Hatmaker was struck and killed by a Citilink bus at Central Station as she walked north across Baker Street on the west side of Harrison Street. Since this case is still locked up in legal matters, I can only say how I and everyone at Citilink are sincerely grieved by this loss of life. I have requested upgrades to the cross walks surrounding central station, as well as requesting a USPS collection box to avoid having to walk four blocks just to deposit mail during a bus transfer at central station.

Calculating Time of Service

I estimate time served to be equivalent to a part-time job of 10 hours per month. The following formula is used to estimate my service time:  $M_{(t1+...+t32)} + R_{(t1+...+t32)} + P_{(t1+...+t32)} + C_{(t1+...+t32)}$  where M is meetings, public hearings, conference sessions, and webinars. R is reading board reports, transit literature and related documents. P is prep work for board discussion and votes, strategy and policy development, engaging bus riders for surveys & consultants for clarity and accuracy, discussing issues with stakeholders such as at neighborhood and community meetings, as well as technical tasks such as regularly setting up a Zoom studio during the pandemic. C is communications including email, phone calls, checking the Citilink website and various facilities, correspondence, and the building & maintenance of a PTC webpage for accountability, education, visioning and organizing.

In public service, Howard Traxmor