Bismarck-Mandan Area Transit Development Plan

Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization

BIS-MAN TRANSIT

Newsletter #2

CONTACTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Public Meeting #1

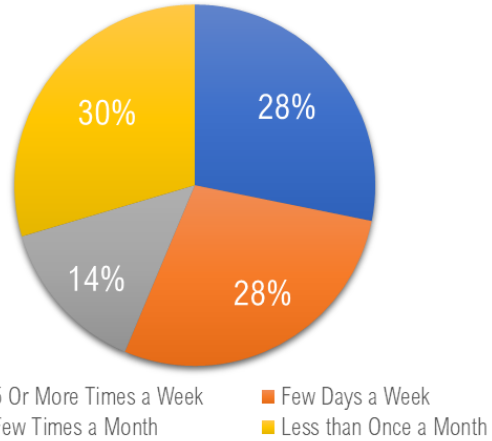
December 6, 2022
Noon to 1:30 PM
Mandan City Hall
Veteran's Conference Room
205 2nd Avenue NW

December 6, 2022
4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library
Conference Room A
515 North 5th Street

Input from the Community Survey

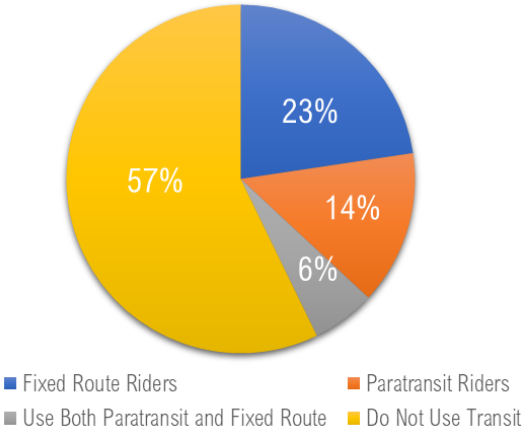
Gathering input from community, including transit customers and residents who do not use the service, is an important part of the initial phase of updating the Transit Development Plan (TDP). From October 24 through November 14, 2022, a short survey asking questions about travelers' use of transit, perceptions of Bis-Man Transit service and basic information on survey respondents was available to complete. Key responses from the survey are shown in the next section.

If a Transit Rider, How Often Do You Ride

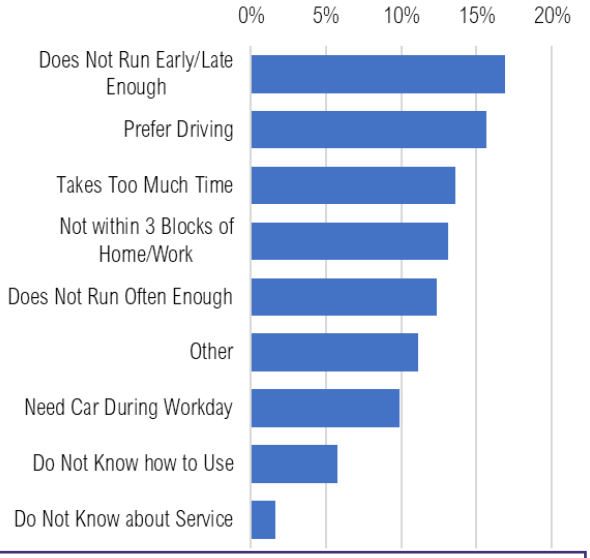


Community Survey Summary

Who Completed the Survey



Reasons People Do Not Regularly Use Transit in Town



Bis-Man Transit History

Bis-Man Transit began service in 1987, as a non-profit corporation providing door-to-door (demand response) service. The initial purpose or goal of the organization was to identify, promote, coordinate and establish transportation service for seniors and individuals with disabilities to provide trips to work, medical appointments and to support recreation travel.

Fixed route service was added in 2004; branded with the State of North Dakota as Capitol Area Transit (CAT).

Service is planned and managed by the Bis-Man Transit Board, which includes up to nine members, each serving a three-year term.

Community Survey (Cont.)

Agree/Disagree with Statements

Survey respondents were asked about their level of agreement/disagreement with a series of statements about transit service in general and their feelings about Bis-Man Transit service.

It is important for the community to provide transit:
91% respondents Strongly Agree or Agree

Transit contributes to the economic health of the area:
70% Strongly Agree or Agree

Transit contributes to the local quality of life in the area:
76% Strongly Agree or Agree

Current service meets my daily travel needs:
43% Disagree or Strongly Disagree. **31%** Agree or Strongly Agree

It is easy to get to places I need/want to using transit:
36% Disagree or Strongly Disagree, while **27%** Agree or Strongly Agree

Transit Service Information

Transit service in the community includes two types of service:

- Fixed Route: Buses run continuously over the service day (7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday and 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM Saturday) on a preset route. Riders can get on/off at any safe location along the route.
- Paratransit: Shared ride service for individuals with a temporary or permanent disability that does not allow them to use fixed route service. In the Bismarck, Mandan and Lincoln area, the service is expanded to include persons 70 years

Below are key statistics associated with current service:

56,700	2021 Annual fixed route rides
86,200	2021 Annual paratransit rides
26.7%	FIXED ROUTE - average monthly rides increase each month in the last year over the same month in the previous year
15.1%	PARATRANSIT - average monthly rides increase each month in the last year over the same month in the previous year
$1.7 Million	2021 fixed route operating cost
$2.1 Million	2021 paratransit operating cost

Paratransit in Bismarck-Mandan Compared to Federal Transit Guidelines

Category	Minimal Requirement	Bis-Man Transit Policy	Bis-Man Practice Relative to Federal Policy
Who is eligible?	Persons with a disability preventing independent use of fixed route service	People 70 years or older or persons with a disability	Exceeds ADA
Service area	Within 3/4 Mile of fixed route service	Anywhere in Bismarck, Mandan, Lincoln or at University of Mary	Exceeds ADA
Service hours	Same as fixed route	Monday-Saturday: 5:30 AM to 12:00 AM Sunday: 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM	Exceeds ADA
Level-of-service	Curb-to-curb (or higher level if needed)	Door-to-door	Exceeds ADA
Advance reservation time	Day before trip (up to 7 days in advance)	Day before trip (up to 14 days in advance)	Exceeds ADA
If Conditionally Eligible for service	Each trip is evaluated based on characteristics such as walk distance, wait time, etc. for fixed route	No trip-by-trip assessment (Eligible for all trips as long as Conditionally Eligible)	Exceeds ADA