

Ben Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Network Regular Meeting Agenda

Monday January 26, 2025 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

BFT Administration Building – Room 304 1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, WA

[Join the meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 881 6167 9988

1. Convene CAN Meeting: 6:00 PM

2. Attendance: 2 Min

BERNIE VINTHER
BILL BARLOW
BRANDON HARBO
BROOKLYN HUFSTADER
DENNIS KREUTZ
ERIK WATKINS
FRANK CUTA
LAURIE PRICE

Representing Name

Position

BFT STAFF PAULINE ESCALERA
BFT STAFF Terry DeJuan

CEO REPRESENTATIVE
Sr. Manager of Fleet

3. Comments by Guests: 5 Min.

4. Previous CAN Meeting Minutes Approval (Attachment A): 2 Min.

Discussion:

Motion to Approve the Minutes by:

Second to Approve the Minutes by:

Minutes Approved Unanimously by a Voice Vote: YES / NO

5. Old Business: 10 Min.

A. Follow-up on status of Brooklyn Hufstader being contacted by BFT Staff and providing them with a record of missed connections she has experienced on Fixed Routes the past three months. She stated that nobody from BFT has contacted her.

BFT – Gabe Martin committed that he would contact Brooklyn to get the information.

6. New Business: 40 Min.

A. Report of the January BFT Board Meeting – Dennis Kreutz

B. Sr. Manager of Fleet BFT Sr. Manager of Fleet, Terry DeJuan, make a presentation regarding the new DAR vehicles and their amenities specification. Hopefully with an on-board tour. CAN has requested a standardized method for CAN and public to submit ideas and comments regarding desired features for consideration in future purchases.

- C. BFT Pauline Escalera will report back regarding fixing the BFT Board Meeting Zoom so that it displays a larger format image of the Board and identifies who is speaking, rather than predominantly displaying an image of the Board Agenda Package. Also if close captioning is available.
- D. Sr. Manager of Fleet BFT Sr. Manager of Fleet, Terry DeJuan, make a presentation regarding the new DAR vehicles and their amenities specification. Hopefully with an on-board tour. CAN has requested a standardized method for CAN and public to submit ideas and comments regarding desired features for consideration in future purchases.
- E. Discuss CAN Recommendation 2025-04 regarding BFT Staff initiating a Key Performance Indicator to track Fixed Route connections that are missed due to early pull outs, or late arrivals.
- F. Discuss CAN Recommendation 2025-05 regarding BFT Staff modify Key Performance Indicators to show quantity of riders affected, not just percentage.
- G. Next CAN Meeting Proposed Agenda Items:

7. BFT Board / BFT Staff Comments: 5 Min.

8. CAN Member Comments: 7 Min.

9. Assign CAN Member to Attend next Board Meeting: 1 Min.

Board Meeting February 12, 2026

6:00 PM

BFT Board Room

CAN Member Assigned: Dennis Kreutz

10. Next CAN Meeting: 1 Min.

Monday February 16, 2026

6:00 p.m.

BFT Admin Room 304

11. ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at:

Ben Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Network Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday December 15, 2025 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

BFT Administration Building – Room 304 1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, WA

1. Convene CAN Meeting: 6:00 PM

2. Attendance: 2 Min

AMBER WISSENBACH	NO
BERNIE VINTHER	YES
BILL BARLOW	YES
BRANDON HARBO	EXCUSED
BROOKLYN HUFSTADER	YES
DENNIS KREUTZ	YES
DORI LUZZO-GILMOUR	YES
ED FROST	YES
ERIK WATKINS	YES
FRANK CUTA	YES
LAURIE PRICE	YES
NAYELI ARANDA	NO
ULISES NAVARRO	NO

Representing Name

Position

BFT STAFF	PAULINE ESCALERA	CEO REPRESENTATIVE
BFT STAFF	GABE MARTIN	PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

3. Comments by Guests: 5 Min.

None

4. Previous CAN Meeting Minutes Approval (Attachment A): 2 Min.

Discussion: None

Motion to Approve the Minutes by: Ed Frost

Second to Approve the Minutes by: Bill Barlow

Minutes Approved Unanimously by a Voice Vote: YES

5. Old Business: 10 Min.

A. Follow-up on status of Brooklyn Hufstader being contacted by BFT Staff and providing them with a record of missed connections she has experienced on Fixed Routes the past three months. She stated that nobody from BFT has contacted her.

BFT – Gabe Martin committed that he would contact Brooklyn to get the information.

6. New Business: 40 Min.

A. Report of the December BFT Board Meeting – Dennis Kreutz

1. Public Comment regarding unsafe conditions on buses due to riders who do not pay.

a. This seems to be the perception of several board members.

CAN Discussion – It was voiced that is not something that has been witnessed by CAN riders.

Dori-Luzzo Gilmour stated that she and her children ride daily and have not witnessed any drugs or security issues.

CAN Discussion: This perception of unsafe conditions should be addressed by checking BFT records regarding frequency of Supervisor's being called to address security issues on buses.

Facts need to be determined because Board has asked for a study to be presented regarding going to No-Fares, which probably would result in cost savings for BFT thus may be implemented.

b. It was mentioned later in the meeting by Chair McKay that Subcontracted Security was going to start immediately for the BFT Administration Building, one month later at Transit Centers, and a month after that on select buses.

CAN Discussion: Having security at BFT Admin seems unnecessary but as Brooklyn Hufstader voiced that security Transit Centers after dark would be welcome. Cameras, Code-Blue help notification system, and physical presence could be evaluated.

It is was also voiced that it seemed unnecessary for two security guards be present in the conference room with the CAN Members.

c. It was also mentioned that metal detectors might be introduced to screen passengers.

CAN Discussion: This does not seem to be a feasible option, buses are not like an airport where you can check your bag for separate screening. This would cause major delays.

7. The Board rejected Resolution 50-2025, CAN Recommendation to allow public discussion after BFT Staff presentation to the Board on items not open to a Public Comment Period, prior the Board voting.

CAN Discussion: It seems likely that the Board did not understand that the Public Comments in question would be only for issues that had not been open for Public Comments prior to the Board Meeting, but when certain issues were presented in the Board Meeting by BFT Staff.

8. The Proposed 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets was approved.
 1. Public Comment was made that the numbers didn't seem to make sense, and asking why 10 Operations personnel were being cut with so much overtime and drivers were working 7 days per week.
 2. Director Bauman later stated that he didn't believe any drivers were working 7 days per week, but asked that BFT Staff check on that for him.

CAN Discussion: It was noted by CAN Members that DAR drivers often work 7 days each week and have worked up to 12 weeks straight and this has been happening for the past three years.

B. Discuss CAN Recommendation 2025-04 regarding BFT Staff initiating a Key Performance Indicator to track Fixed Route connections that are missed due to early pull outs, or late arrivals. (Attachment B)

Dennis Kreutz to draft a CAN Recommendation for next CAN Meeting discussion.

C. Discuss CAN Recommendation 2025-05 regarding BFT Staff modify Key Performance Indicators to show quantity of riders affected, not just percentage. (Attachment C)

Dennis Kreutz to draft a CAN Recommendation for next CAN Meeting discussion.

D. Bill Barlow and Frank Cuta will serve as the CAN Recruitment Committee.

E. Next CAN Meeting Proposed Agenda Items:

- a. BFT Sr. Manager of Fleet, Terry DeJuan, make a presentation regarding the new DAR vehicles and their amenities specification. Hopefully with an on-board tour. CAN has requested a standardized method for CAN and public to submit ideas and comments regarding desired features for consideration in future purchases.
- b. BFT Pauline Escalera will report back regarding fixing the BFT Board Meeting Zoom so that it displays a larger format image of the Board and identifies who is speaking, rather than predominantly displaying an image of the Board Agenda Package. Also if close captioning is available.

7. BFT Board / BFT Staff Comments: 5 Min.

BFT Pauline Escalera confirmed that BFT will be a partner at the April 18 Earth Day celebration at the REACH.

8. CAN Member Comments: 7 Min.

Dori-Luzzo Gilmour and Ed Frost are departing from the Citizen Advisory Network and their contributions will be missed.

Dennis Kreutz requested Pauline Escalera check to see if Public Comments submitted to the Board in writing are accessible to the public or should be included in the Board Meeting Minutes.

CAN discussed and agreed that best method to make CAN Members aware of opportunities to participate in BFT Events will be for Pauline Escalera to notify CAN Secretary/Recorder Frank Cuta directly.

9. Assign CAN Member to Attend next Board Meeting: 1 Min.

Board Meeting January 8, 2026 6:00 PM BFT Board Room
CAN Member Assigned: Dennis Kreutz

10. Next CAN Meeting: 1 Min.

Monday January 26, 2026 6:00 p.m. BFT Admin Room 304

11. ADJOURN:

A. Meeting adjourned at: 7:30 PM