

Ben Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Network
June 2026 Monthly Meeting Agenda

6:00 PM on June 15, 2026.

BFT Admin Building 1000 Columbia Park Trail Richland

A. CAN Member in Attendance – by Frank Cuta

BFT Staff members in attendance included:

B. Introduction of new CAN Members by Frank Cuta and Bill Barlow

C. Approval of the Minutes of April CAN Meeting – Attachment A – by Frank Cuta
Approval of the Minutes of May CAN Meeting – Attachment B – by Frank Cuta

D. Old and New Business – by Dennis Kreutz

1. Presentation of Transit Development Plan – BFT Kevin Sliger
2. Key Performance Indicators updated to show actual quantities in addition to percentages. Note that this information only displays while the mouse pointer is hovering over the applicable percentage box.
CAN Discussion: Is this method going to work, is it intuitive for a viewer?
3. CAN Member concerns from the April CAN Meeting:
Discussion on how to bring these issues to BFT, should assignments be made, or a CAN Concerns committee or individual be tasked with completing the task?
 - a. Brandon Harbo – Better lighting at bus stops and transit centers.
 - b. Eric Watkins - concern that BFT not adopt cumbersome safety and security measures that make public transit less desirable.
What are those measures?
Hostile Architecture such as seat segmentation barriers on benches?
Private Security personnel at transit centers and on buses?
 - c. Brooklyn feels there are safety concerns associated with accessing the bus by walking on the shoulder of the road and crossing the road after leaving the bus.
It was noted that BFT has been putting signage and audio messaging on the buses to warn against crossing in front of the bus.
CAN Discussion: Should CAN recommend that signage be on every bus and be repeated periodically to remind riders?
 - d. Brandon suggested that Security should be increased in areas where there are increased reports of problems not just uniformly across the

properties. CAN would be interested in getting more feedback from riders. The consensus was that less, and more sporadic presence at Transit Centers, and perhaps not at all on the buses. It was noted that none of the CAN Members who ride frequently have witnessed issues on the buses.

CAN Discussion: Here is the BFT Security Personnel Schedule, are there comments on this?

Budget- \$250K for FY26

Officers- 8 total

Shift Schedules:

#	Shift Start	Shift End
1	4:00AM	12:00PM
2	5:00AM	1:00PM
3	6:00AM	2:00PM
4	7:00AM	3:00PM
5	1:00PM	9:00PM
6	2:00PM	10:00PM
7	2:00PM	10:00PM
8	4:00PM	12:00AM

- e. Dennis Kreutz - CAN discuss the rider concerns associated with the current vehicles and with future bus purchases. We understand that there is an extensive process done by BFT during bus purchases, but there may be some points that are brought up by CAN Members or those they communicate with.

CAN Discussion:

1. Comfortable padding on DAR seats.
2. Move the fare collection box on the new DAR vehicles, it sticks out into the pathway at the top of the stairs. This may be indicative of BFT staff not taking into account the mechanics of how the vehicles are accessed and used by riders.
3. Improved and more comfortable bench seating on DAR vehicles

E. Report on the BFT Board meeting by Laurie Price

F. CAN Member comments:

G. BFT Staff Comments:

H. Assign CAN Member to attend the July 9 BFT Board Meeting:

Next CAN Meeting July 20 at BFT Admin Building.

Meeting Adjourned at:

Attachment A: April CAN Meeting Minutes

April 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes Ben Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Network
BFT Administration Building

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Kreutz at 6:00 PM on April, 20, 2026.

A. Present:

Dennis Kreutz, Brandon Harbo, Frank Cuta, Bernie Vinther, Bill Barlow, Brooklyn
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Excused : Erik Watkins, Laurie Price

BFT Staff in attendance:

Pauline Escalera	CEO Representative
Gabe Martin	Planning Manager
Epideh Acici	Transit Planning

B. Minutes of our March meeting - Frank

Frank Cuta made the motion and Bill Barlow seconded that they be accepted as distributed and the motion passed.

C. Old and New Business:

4. BFT Presentation regarding Three Rivers Community Foundation by Gabe Martin
They manage nonprofit funds from various sources and through grants to distribute funds back into the community.

CAN discussed how to get this information to the people who need it.

Frank believes that there is presently no good way to reach this population in the Tri-Cities.

5. We are still discussing key performance indicators. Real numbers have more impact so the CAN has requested that they be used in KPS's instead of just percentage.

The quantity of Fixed Route late to the bus stop (thus possibly missed rides) figure is in the hundred thousand and is a much more graphic detail than just stating 7%.

If there are 3.2M Fixed Route boarding per year = 266K per month.

7% late, possibly missed, stops is 224K per year, 18,620 per month.

Bill Barlow says it is important to think about what the performance indicators are trying to tell.

The point was made that we feel it is important that Board Members and Public are provided with numbers as well as percentages to accurately show the impact of the KPI's

Gabe Martin Gabe says they are working on achieving consistent spacing between the vehicles. This should decrease missed rides caused by early and late departures.

6. Brandon Harbo suggests better lighting at bus stops and transit centers.
CAN Discussion: Is there a specific recommendation to BFT?
7. Brandon suggested that Security should be increased in areas where there are increased reports of problems not just uniformly across the properties. CAN would be interested in getting more feedback from riders. The consensus was that less, and more sporadic presence at Transit Centers, and perhaps not at all on the buses. It was noted that none of the CAN Members who ride frequently have witnessed issues on the buses.
8. Paulene reported that in the current stage of this project they have advanced to putting officers on board with the drivers.
9. Dennis Kreutz questioned if it is necessary to patrol in pairs? What is the cost benefit.
10. Brooklyn likes seeing the security presence at transit centers. She feels that there is a noticeable reduction in angry confrontations among the people waiting for rides.

She also feels there are safety concerns associated with accessing the bus by walking on the shoulder of the road and crossing the road after leaving the bus. It was noted that BFT has been putting signage and audio messaging on the buses to warn against crossing in front of the bus.
11. Eric Watkins raised a concern that BFT not adopt cumbersome safety and security measures that make public transit less desirable.
12. Lori Price favors just a show of security at transit centers rather than an overly strong presence.

D. Report regarding the April Board Meeting: Dennis Kreutz

1. The Board made the decision at the April meeting to let CEO Tom Drozt go and keep Brian Lubanski as Interim CEO.
2. There was more discussion of the fare - no fare issue.

3. There was discussion of using benches at the transit centers with individual dividers to discourage people from sleeping on them. This is known as hostile architecture.

E. Recruitment Committee:

1. Bill Barlow likes a couple of the applicants. We will choose 3 out of 5. Frank would like to know if any of the applicants have ever attended a BFT board meeting and can each of them make a firm commitment to attend our once-a-month meetings.

F. CAN Member Comments:

1. Dennis Kreutz suggested that the CAN should put more energy into thinking about the design concerns associated with future bus purchases. We understand that there is an extensive process done by BFT during bus purchases, but there may be some points that are brought up by CAN Members or those they communicate with.
2. Frank Cuta commented that we have never received any justification as to why the seat padding on the new paratransit vehicles has been reduced, which has become more of an issue now that transit times are increasing.

G. The next BFT Board Meeting is on May 18 at 6:00 PM at the Three Rivers Transit Center, due to the Art On The Bus Awards taking place there that date.
Dennis will represent the CAN.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM

Minutes submitted by Frank Cuta, secretary

Attachment B: May CAN Meeting Minutes

May 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes Ben Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Network
BFT Three Rivers Transit Center Building

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Kreutz at 6:48 PM on May 18, 2026.

A. Present:

Dennis Kreutz, Frank Cuta, Bernie Vinther, Bill Barlow, Brooklyn Hustader, Erik Watkins, Laurie Price

Excused: Brandon Harbo

BFT Staff in attendance:

Pauline Escalera	CEO Representative
Kevin Sliger	Chief Planning and Development Officer
Gabe Martin	Planning Manager
Epideh Acici	Transit Planning
Eyvette Brown	Safety and Security

Preceding the CAN Meeting the CAN Members attended the annual Student Art On The Bus awards ceremony.

C. Old and New Business:

a. Recruitment Committee:

The CAN is submitting to the BFT Board the following 4 individuals for consideration for approval as members of the CAN by the BFT Board. This is only pending confirmation that they have not changed their mind.

Ariel Houck - new from Richland
David Cortinas - new from Pasco
Jocelyn Flores - new from Pasco
Nayeli Aranda (former member)

b. RideCo software testing

This is the software being considered for automated scheduling and the processing of on demand ride requests.

Kevin Slyger requested that CAN members take part in the evaluation of this product.

c. We continued discussing the new safety/security measures being considered.

- d. Dennis Kreutz questioned the functionality of certain elements of the camera system being evaluated. He pointed out that the camera trailers located at the transit centers actually provide very little coverage.

D. CAN Member Comments:

- a. Dennis Kreutz has been requested by BFT Board Chair Bauman to report at the June BFT board meeting regarding the things that were noted during the CAN tour of the new DAR vehicle and point out some of the new design features that are beneficial to riders. Frank Cuta cautioned about praising them too much before we have a chance to see the hardware actually being used.

G. The next BFT Board Meeting is on June 11 at 6:00 PM and Laurie Price will represent CAN.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31PM
Minutes submitted by
Frank Cuta, secretary