

July 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Ben Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Network

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Brandon Harbo at 6:01 P.M. on Monday July 20, 2026.
At the BFT Administration building.

A. Attendance

Dennis Kreutz, Barndon Harbo, Frank Cuta, Bill Barlow, David Cortinas, Jocelyn Flores, Brooklyn Hufsader, Laurie Price, Eric Watkins.

Excused Absences: Ariel Houck, Bernie Vinther

Guests from the public were present: Chris Lindhartsen

BFT Staff members in attendance included

Pauline Escalera – BFT Representative

Brian Lubanski – BFT CEO

Mike Lohman – BFT Director of Transit Operations

Gabe Martin – BFT Planning

B. Minutes of our June meeting:

David Cortinas moved to adopt the June Meeting Minutes and they were approved.

C. Report of the July BFT Board Meeting – Dennis Kreutz

D. RideCo DAR Scheduling and Reservation APP rollout and CAN Testing

Brian Lubanski is asking the CAN to participate in the testing of the RideCo app pursuant to its being rolled out in September.

Rideco is a passenger facing, on-demand smart phone app and web portal. It is destination oriented rather than pick up oriented.

Besides basic trip reservation it features flexible booking, on time guarantee, trip notification and reminders and expected arrival time. It makes possible continuous optimization and online tracking.

Mike Lohman is the BFT RideCo lead and will coordinate with CAN.

Brian also notified us that Wi-Fi service and email recertification are coming to paratransit.

Pauline will obtain personal data from the CAN members in order to get them qualified for Dial-A-Ride service for the test period.

E. Elimination of downtown transit center in Kennewick

Gabe Martin explained the decision to eliminate the downtown transit center in favor of revamping the 22nd Ave facility.

David Cortinas expressed disappointment on the part of downtown business owners.

Dennis pointed out that it is just a single stop regardless and that the number of stops might be a greater concern.

Gabe Martin committed to follow-up with David to discuss the locations of all the existing downtown Pasco bus stops, and frequency of service.

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F. Request from BFT Board

BFT Board Chair Bauman is requesting that the CAN report on our impression of the new vehicles at the August BFT meeting. We will, through Pauline, request that this report be postponed for a month since many of us will be seeing these vehicles in August as part of the RideCo testing and should be much better informed.

Note that until this meeting CAN Members that are not ADA Eligible for Paratransit have not been allowed to ride on the Dial-A-Ride vehicles even for evaluation purposes.

G. Fare Free

We discussed the fare free pilot being instituted for July. Should we provide input to the BFT board on the pros and cons. CAN members had some strong opinions as to whether or not this would be a wise use of our meeting time. Perhaps a subcommittee could take a look at it.

H. Suggestions for August agenda

Audible announcement of fixed routes stops consistently a block before each stop.

Currently cross streets are occasionally announced but not stops.

I. CAN member comments

Bill Barlow pointed out the high traffic around CBC near transit center is a concern.

Brooklyn Hufstader suggests they try and improve the shade provided along the route by Wendys and Safeway.

Bill Barlow raised a concern that we should be more involved or at least more aware of the climate action plans and engine emissions.

J. Representation at next BFT Board meeting – Dennis Kreutz

K. Next meeting is scheduled for August 17 at BFT Admin Building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Frank Cuta, Secretary