



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2023
TO: Chair Bryson and the CBJ Public Works and Facilities Committee
THRU: Denise Koch, Engineering & Public Works Director
FROM: Rich Ross, Capital Transit, Transit Superintendent
SUBJECT: Transit Update for Drivers and Route Reactivation

This memo provides an update on Capital Transit operations, including staffing, service routes, and the status of the electric vehicle (EV) bus fleet.

Resumed and Expanded Service

After a long but successful recruitment process, Capital Transit filled five driver vacancies. These improved driver staffing levels allowed Capital Transit to begin offering resumed and expanded service for patrons across Juneau and Douglas as of October 23, 2023. Notable schedule updates include the return of service to Route 5 (University Connector) and Route 6 (Riverside/Airport Connector), which were suspended in December 2022 due to a shortage of drivers. These routes include service to the airport, UAS, and the Teal Street Center social services campus.

Capital Transit also expanded Monday-Friday service in the early morning on two core routes. Route 1, which services Douglas/downtown Juneau, now starts service at 6:28 a.m. (previously 6:58 a.m.). Route 4 services the Mendenhall Valley and shifted from a 6:40 a.m. to a 6:00 a.m. start time. The implementation of this earlier morning schedule was based on community feedback and an analysis of our ridership data, both of which indicated an unmet demand for transportation to the hospital area – whether for work or care – before 7:00 a.m.

A summary of all route service changes and updated schedules is available at juneaucapitaltransit.org/schedules. Capital Transit drivers and staff provided notice of changes to their ridership and updated Google Maps Transit directions to reflect the recent service expansion.

EV Bus Fleet Updates

As you may recall, the Proterra EV bus purchased with FTA funding in 2020 has had significant mechanical problems since arriving in Juneau in 2021. It has been out of revenue service since November 2022. After many attempts at repairs, CBJ asked Proterra to replace the bus; after several weeks, they responded with a buyback offer but entered bankruptcy before sending the offer in writing. The CBJ Law Department has submitted a claim for the value of the bus to the Proterra Bankruptcy.

After significant research and consultation with other cold weather communities, Capital Transit purchased seven (7) [GILLIG Battery Electric busses](#) in October 2022. The latest estimated timeline shows that the busses will be built in the spring of 2024 and are expected to enter revenue service in the fall of 2024.