



# CASPER AREA TRANSPORTATION COALITION

Date: November 22, 2023

To: Evansville Mayor and Council

From: Steve Kurtz, CATC Vice President

As you know the Casper Area Transportation Coalition (CATC) provided public transportation services through on a contract with the City of Casper from 1982 through May 7<sup>th</sup> of 2-21 when the City of Casper terminated the contract and began operating the transit services.

The City raided our offices and took control of our bank accounts. The City's non-audit showed there was no embezzlement by our staff. CATC sued the City for violating our civil rights. We settled the lawsuit in April 2023 after the judge dismissed the City filing that the CATC lawsuit should be dismissed. The settlement press release exonerated the CATC board. The people who suffer most are the people who need a ride, as the city is cutting route service because of lack of personnel.

At that time the CATC Board resolved to modify the mission of the organization, though an initiative name CATC Moving Forward. The modified mission is:

*“To provide assistance to individuals who are elderly, disabled, transportation disadvantaged, or low to moderate income through social service and public agencies by reimbursing them for expenses of paying for those rides and providing funds to help purchase vehicles to transport agency clients.”*

It is **not** the intent of CATC Moving Forward to duplicate any current existing public transit system services. Rather it is our mission to supplement those services for those individuals who meet the criteria listed in our mission statement. To that end we desire to provide quality programs overall several years that would develop the potential for recruiting matching fund from foundations, donors, and other organizations to reach a goal of developing a self-sustaining program.

In the last two years we have entered into contracts with six local agencies for reimbursement of route bus tokens, dial-a-ride tickets and cab fare. An additional seven contracts for up to \$25,000 matching grants to purchase a vehicle have also been awarded. To date \$170,000 has been awarded to organizations in our community.

We came to you in 2021 to offer to reimburse the Town for tokens and tickets that you purchased and give to you residents. You did not respond to us.

We are back with that proposal. Also, we could consider reimbursing you for the amount of the local match you paid for your current bus. I assume that is 5% or 10% of the cost of the vehicle. Or we could commit to local match for a new vehicle if you need one in a couple years.