

Fact Sheet



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Profile

Bis-Man Transit and Capital Area Transit provide high quality, reliable, convenient and safe public transportation services in an efficient manner. Bis-Man Transit started door-to-door bus service in 1990 for persons with disabilities, and a short time later the service was also offered to senior citizens. Bis-Man Transit took the initiative to start a fixed-route bus service in the Bismarck and Mandan communities and in May 2004, the first rides were given on Capital Area Transit (The CAT).

History

Since the mid 1970's, individuals concerned about transportation needs of persons with disabilities and senior citizens had attempted to establish a coordinated transportation system. A committee was formed in fall 1986 and the non-profit incorporation of the Bis-Man Transit Board took place on April 28th, 1987.

Urban Mass Transit Authority (UMTA) funds were available for the Bismarck and Mandan areas, but they required matching funds (if the UMTA funds weren't used by Bismarck/Mandan within three years, the money was reallocated to Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot).

A Transit Study was conducted in fall 1988 with the final results delivered to the Transit Board in December 1989. The results showed that Bismarck and Mandan were supportive of the need for a coordinated transit system but did not have funds available to provide the financial match needed to obtain the UMTA grant. The Bis-Man Transit Board was given the responsibility to identify and raise all funds. In October 1989, a two-year grant was awarded from the ND Council on Developmental Disabilities. Along with other fund-raising activities the Board planned and implemented, \$110,000 was raised to match the UMTA grant requirements.

In May 1990, a limited service for individuals with developmental disabilities was started and a month later, the Bis-Man Transit Board contracted with Central NoDak Development Corporation for management, staff and office space for the Bis-Man Transit Board. The initial transportation system was started as a door-to-door, 24 hour advance reservation system available 24 hours per day/seven days per week.

On May 10, 2004, Capital Area Transit, known as "The CAT", began operating a fixed-route system to service Bismarck and Mandan. The CAT is operated by the Bis-Man Transit Board, which acts as the representatives for the cities of Bismarck and Mandan.

Bis-Man Transit and Capital Area Transit continue to receive UMTA funding with matching money coming from the Missouri Slope Areawide United Way, RSVP+, Mandan Golden Age Services, Burleigh County Senior Adults Program, and other donations.

Structure

The 15 member Bis-Man Transit Board is the broker for transportation services for the cities of Bismarck and Mandan. The managerial provider for the Bis-Man Transit Board is Central NoDak Development Corporation and the operational provider is Taxi 9000.

As broker, the Bis-Man Transit Board is responsible for

- Administration of the transit system
- Provision of facilities, personnel, and equipment necessary to carry out transportation services
- Raising of the local non-federal share of funds to match the UMTA transit grant
- Soliciting of all proposals for service providers
- Verification of and paying provider invoices
- Monitoring provider compliance
- Providing monthly operating and financial reports
- Distribution of service information materials
- Selling fare tickets
- Certifying Bis-Man Transit eligible riders and maintaining a rider database
- Handling of and resolution of complaints and suggestions for improvement

As operational provider, Taxi 9000 is responsible for

- Providing the actual transportation services for Bis-Man Transit and The CAT
- Provision of maintenance necessary to carry out transportation services

The City of Bismarck owns the facilities, vehicles, and equipment and is responsible for

- Establishing all major service policies and procedures
- Final review and approval of administrative documents and budgets
- Certain other functions including liaison with the Urban Mass Transportation Administration on all grant and programmatic requirements

2009 Bis-Man Transit Facts

- 170,251 rides were given by Bis-Man Transit
- 56,565 rides were given by Taxi 9000 for Bis-Man Transit
- 658,748 miles were traveled by Bis-Man Transit

2009 Capital Area Transit Facts

- 131,601 rides were given on The CAT buses
- 327,354 miles were driven by CAT drivers
- 54,215 gallons of gas was used by CAT buses
- \$136,126 was spent on gas for CAT buses at an average cost of \$2.57 per gallon