Commuter and Carpool Facilitation Resolution
Adopted
April 17, 2017

Whereas Ball State University is a signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment and a leader in the area of sustainability; and

Whereas Ball State University seeks to provide leadership in environmental matters through numerous greening of the campus initiatives; and

Whereas Ball State University has endorsed a Climate Neutral Commitment by 2030, and

Whereas Transportation is listed as an area of energy conservation as part of the University’s Climate Action Plan, and scope 3 carbon emissions (employee commuting and business travel) will be reduced by the implementation of the Central Indiana Regional Transit Authority (heretofore known as CIRTA) plan; and

Whereas the Ball State University Council on the Environment membership represents the University and surrounding Muncie community; and

Whereas in its role, the Council is charged to recommend policies for the good of these communities; and

Whereas the CIRTA has in place a number of provisions, such as carpool matches, bike buddies, vanpools, and emergency ride home benefits, known published literature as CIRTA Commuter Connect; and

Whereas a number of Ball State University employees live and commute from counties in the CIRTA jurisdiction, including Marion, Hamilton, Hancock, Shelby, Johnson, Morgan, Hendricks, Boone, Delaware, and Madison counties; and

Whereas Ball State University may experience other benefits, including, but not limited to: enhanced employee recruitment from a larger geographic area, potential increased worker productivity, a reduced parking demand, a more sustainable public image, and

Whereas Section 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Code allows employers to provide tax-free transit, vanpool and parking benefits to their employees, and

Whereas such commuter benefits can be deducted when paid for by an employer (subsidy) or in the form of pre-tax flexible spending accounts for alternative modes of commuting,

1https://www.cirta.us/commuter-connect/
Now, therefore be it resolved that the Council adopt the following motion:

That Ball State University explore participating as a registered employer in the CIRTA Commuter Connect program in order to:

- encourage staff to work with Commuter Connect to expand their current transportation benefits, and
- leverage Commuter Connect services to improve the general connectivity of the Muncie campus to:

  1. Ball State’s own distance education locations in the Indianapolis metropolitan region;
  2. Regional, national, and international transportation hubs, including Greyhound, Amtrak, and the International airport; and
  3. students and employees dwelling within the CIRTA service area that may benefit from such enhanced connectivity.