



S.R. 005 : Improving Local Public Transit

SPONSOR: Mason Francis, Senator for Engineering and Computational Sciences

CO-SPONSOR: Mitchell Zufelt, Vice President of Academics

AUTHOR: Mason Francis, Senator for Engineering and Computational Sciences

WHEREAS the Southern Utah University Student Association represents all students of Southern Utah University, including those living in and around Cedar City;

WHEREAS the Cedar Area Transportation Department operates CATS, a public transit service funded by Cedar City Corporation and the Federal Transit Administration, also being a member of the Utah Urban and Rural Specialized Transportation Association;

WHEREAS many individuals, especially students of Southern Utah University and Southwest Technical College, do not have a car available to them, and therefore have need for other transportation options;

WHEREAS CATS provides an insufficient level and quality of service to the Cedar City area, an opinion shared by many students and Cedar City residents alike;

WHEREAS CATS has a single meandering route of enormous size that often runs in only one direction and frequently takes an entire hour to complete 1 loop, resulting in inconvenient and excessive ride durations for customers;

WHEREAS the route excludes some important areas of Cedar City, making the bus not a viable option for many residents;

WHEREAS service only runs once per hour, resulting in a transit system that is inconvenient to use;

WHEREAS service is only available beginning at 7am and ending at 6pm, a restricted time frame that limits CATS as a viable transportation option for many residents of Cedar City;

WHEREAS the bus can frequently be seen driving the route carrying few to no passengers;

WHEREAS some residents of Cedar City are not even aware of the existence of CATS;

WHEREAS the service map and schedule was most recently updated more than half a decade ago, and can be difficult to interpret;

WHEREAS there are many effective and well-designed urban and rural transit systems around the country, including those of the Utah Transit Authority and the Cache Valley Transit District, that can be used as examples to inspire improvements to CATS;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that we, the Southern Utah University Student Association, call upon the Cedar Area Transportation Department and government of Cedar City to take significant action to improve CATS service to better serve residents and businesses in the local community.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend the aforementioned organized bodies consult with and learn from available resources, such as the aforementioned Utah Transit Authority and Cache Valley Transit District, in developing a transit system that provides effective and viable service to the Cedar City area.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that Senator Mason Francis will communicate this resolution to and work with the Cedar Area Transportation Department and elected Cedar City government officials concerning this issue.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that Senator Mason Francis will work with incoming senators for the 2022-2023 academic year in order to ensure that progress on resolving this issue will continue into that year.

Student Body President, Nouman Kante: _____