

Preliminary Report: Exploring Bus Route Options for Military Base Dependents

December 2024 Regular Meeting

Purpose

This report summarizes key considerations for adding bus route options to integrate dependents of military personnel with the city's existing public transit system. It is intended to inform the public and the advisory board to gather feedback for refining proposals.

1. Current Base Access Challenges

- **No Dedicated Public Transportation:** Individuals traveling onto the base must have credentials such as a Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) pass or Department of Defense (DOD) ID.
 - **Base Entry Points:** Access is restricted through specific gates:
 - **Elmendorf (Air Force):** Post Road, Boniface (Visitor Center), Muldoon.
 - **Richardson (Army):** Arctic Valley (closed), Richardson (Visitor Center inaccessible), Government Hill.
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2. Existing Public Transit and Ride Options

- **Public Bus Routes:**
 - **PeopleMover 92:** Goes to Eagle River; could potentially include a stop at the Boniface Visitor Center.
 - **PeopleMover 31:** Neighborhood-focused, possible connection to base entry points.
 - **PeopleMover 25 & 41:** Proximity to base gates is limited.
 - **RideShares and Taxis:**
 - Limited Uber and Lyft access (100 vehicles/each on base); Lyft Base Mode is piloted at other military locations.
 - Yellow Cab has special agreements for access.
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3. Possible Scenarios for Dependents' Transit

- **Dependents' Access:** Requires either DBIDS credentials or coordination with sponsors.

- **Existing Models:**

- Military-specific shuttles like the Army YMCA Shuttle provide insights into possible frameworks.
 - School buses already navigate base protocols.
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4. Potential Solutions

- **Contracting with the City:** A formal agreement could enable a public bus to access key base locations like Visitor Centers, processing facilities, and residential areas.
 - **Security Checks:** All passengers would require DBIDS/DOD credentials, similar to current procedures.
 - **Service Stops:**
 - Visitor Centers as primary hubs.
 - Key housing or recreation areas identified through RecAccess input.
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5. Community Feedback Needed

- **Proposed Route Feasibility:** Are the suggested stops and connections practical?
 - **Security and Accessibility:** Are current credential requirements a barrier?
 - **Alternative Options:** Suggestions for ride-shares, vanpools, or paratransit.
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Next Steps

Feedback from this meeting will guide the development of a formal proposal to be presented at the next advisory board meeting. Public input is vital to creating a system that meets the needs of dependents while complying with base security protocols.

Contact for Questions/Feedback

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This report is preliminary and subject to change based on public and board feedback.