

CITY OF MADISON ACTION ITEM DETAIL – AUGUST 23, 2023

ACTION TITLE: Approval of bus stop closures along Route A

PRESENTER: Metro Transit, Mike Cechvala

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ACTION SUMMARY:

Approve closure of selected bus stops along Route A with the December 2023 service change, or sooner as warranted.

BACKGROUND:

Metro Transit began construction of the east-west bus rapid transit line in late 2022, and expects construction to be complete in 2024. In June 2023, the Transit Network Redesign was implemented, introducing Routes A and B. In late 2024, Routes A and B will be converted to BRT lines by replacing the buses with electric articulated buses and replacing the bus stops along Route A with BRT stations. Current bus stop spacing on Route A is about 4 to 6 bus stops per mile, and will be reduced to about 2 to 3 bus stops per mile.

Route A, and particularly Route B, which has a shared alignment with much of Route A, have struggled to maintain their schedules since the redesign was implemented.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro staff propose to improve the on-time performance of these routes by closing some of the bus stops along Route A that will not be replaced by BRT stations in 2023, as opposed to the original plan of closing them in 2024. This change will likely save at least one bus from being added to the rotation, reducing Metro's demand for drivers, while also improving travel times for riders ahead of the planned BRT implementation.

39 bus stops at 21 intersections are proposed for closure. Several bus stops will remain on Route A that are not at BRT stations for various reasons, these stops are expected to remain open until BRT implementation. Metro is implementing other changes to improve on-time performance as well, such as schedule adjustments and road relief buses. Closing the stops with a service change ensures all apps and websites show the correct information, however if on-time performance suffers further with the start of the academic year, these stops may be closed sooner. Some will also need to be closed sooner for construction or other reasons.

EQUITY GOAL IMPACTS:

None, equity impacts were analyzed with the BRT project, this action is part of the implementation of that project.