

PRESENTED TO TPC
AT ITS 05.13.08
MEETING

TO: Madison Common Council
Transit and Parking Commission
Board of Estimates

FROM: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz



Chuck Kamp, Transit General Manager



May 13, 2008

Metro Transit is proposing a number of schedule and route changes designed to address the needs of customers who rely on Metro to get to jobs, school, and other important destinations. Core route and schedule changes are needed to ensure that Metro customers can rely on the schedules. With fuel prices rising dramatically, as well as concerns for climate change issues, we need to ensure that transit services in our community are available and reliable, and the investments in the proposed changes will help us stay on track. The use of \$53,000 in Metro's contingency funds will be necessary to implement these changes. We urge you to support this final round of proposed service changes.

Metro proposed some service reductions that staff thought would help pay for the more important changes needed in other areas without causing a significant burden on passengers. One of the more urgent adjustments proposed on existing core routes is the Route 6 from East Towne Mall to the West Transfer Point, one of Metro's most productive routes, and the change will be crucial to meet the needs and expectations of Metro customers. Metro is doing this by lengthening the amount of time between the West Transfer Point and Madison Area Technical College, adding some additional trips during weekdays, and streamlining the route into and out of East Towne Mall for Route 6.

Metro staff and all of us heard loud and clear the positive feedback regarding Routes 17 and 22. Changes to these routes will continue to help workers get to jobs in the evening, students getting home from after school activities, and people going grocery shopping in the evening. The final recommended proposals would allow half hour evening service on Route 22 and hourly service on Route 17.

One of the more difficult service reductions is Route 13, which serves the south side of Madison and parts of the Town of Madison. The Town of Madison service was estimated at \$111,000 for 2008. However, during their budget deliberations, the Town of Madison budgeted only \$85,000 of the service. Efforts have been made to explain the consequences of the Town of Madison's budgetary decision. At this time, no additional funds are forthcoming from any entity. In order

to be equitable to all of its service partners, Metro can only provide the service that each partner can pay for. Without the necessary funding from the Town of Madison, service on Route 13 south of Olin Avenue will be eliminated. However, Route 13 will continue to serve the Goodman Pool and the Interfaith Hospitality facility.

The final list of proposed changes will cost an estimated \$53,000 more in 2008 which Metro proposes funding out of its contingency reserve. Other changes for new service originally proposed would have increased costs over \$150,000 more in 2008, but these will need to wait for consideration until the 2009 budget deliberations. This is prompted by escalating fuel prices estimated to drive Metro's fuel costs \$1 million over budget for 2008 so that service expansions are not currently possible.

The focus now is on core route and schedule changes needed to ensure that Metro customers can rely on the schedules for Metro transit services.