



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Approved ADA TRANSIT SUBCOMMITTEE TO THE TRANSIT AND PARKING COMM

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Wednesday, September 10, 2008

5:10 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room 303 (Madison Municipal Building)

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Staff – Crystal Martin, Ann Gullickson, Wayne Block, Ann Schroeder

Present: 6 -

Carl D. Durocher; William J. Tangney; Jeanne M. Tregoning; Susan M. De Vos; Mary E. Jacobs and James Cobb

Absent: 1 -

Michael A. Huckaby

Excused: 2 -

Tim Gruber and Ida W. Nathan

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DuRocher moved to approve the August 13, 2008 minutes; Dr. Cobb seconded. Dr. Cobb, Mr. Tangney and Ms. Brunette-Tregoning abstained because they were absent for the August meeting. The motion carried.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public appearances.

### 4. [11909](#)

Meeting Dates for 2009

The group was discussing changing meeting dates for 2009 to either the second or fourth Monday of the month. Some people had conflicts with the second Monday. Memorial Day and Yom Kippur conflict with the fourth Monday, but members felt we could work around that. Mr. Tangney moved that the fourth Monday of the month be the regularly scheduled meeting time in 2009; Dr. Cobb seconded. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

The group needs to re-schedule the November 12, 2008 meeting due to a conflict with a Common Council budget meeting. It was decided to combine the November and December meetings into an early December meeting. The exact date will be decided at the October meeting. The October meeting will be October 15th.

5. [11910](#) Budget 2009 - Wayne Block, Metro Finance Manager

**Attachments:** [Metro 2009 Capital Assets.pdf](#)  
[Metro 2009 Compensation.pdf](#)  
[Metro 2009 Detail Summary.pdf](#)  
[Metro 2009 Expenditures.pdf](#)  
[Metro 2009 Highlights.pdf](#)  
[Metro 2009 Op Budget.pdf](#)

Mr. Block said that there are serious budget concerns for 2009. The City is going to have a stiff property tax increase, but agencies still have to be as frugal as possible because the taxes won't cover all the short runs. The Mayor requested agencies to submit a status quo budget – no new projects will be funded for 2009. The Mayor also asked agencies to submit ideas to cut 5% from their budget if necessary. The base budget submittal does not include the 5% cuts.

Mr. Tangney asked whether lower oil prices will help significantly. It could. The budget Metro submitted is based on \$3.75 a gallon diesel fuel. The City does not pay fuel taxes. Currently, Metro does not have a locked in price for fuel but is planning to go out for bid. Metro is currently paying about \$3.25 a gallon. If a contract price is locked in that is lower than \$3.75, that will have a positive effect on the budget. But that's currently an unknown.

Also included in the baseline budget was an increase in the cash adult fare from \$1.50 to \$1.75. All other cash fares would increase similarly. All discounted tickets, such as 31-day passes, would increase, but at a lesser percentage. Dr. Cobb asked if the increases were proportional. Mr. Block didn't have exact numbers, but he said it is not proportional. For example, there is one fare type that would not increase at all. The Transit and Parking Commission (TPC) makes the decision on fare increases; staff just makes recommendations and gives scenarios about how it will affect the budget. Also, the Mayor has to decide whether to include the increase in his budget. Mr. Tangney asked when the last fare increase was. It was in 2004. Mr. DuRocher said that the last fare increase was not to base cash fares but only to pass and ticket prices.

Mr. DuRocher asked if the recently ratified Teamsters contract would affect the budget. Mr. Block said that the increases in health care prices and wages were anticipated in the budget Metro submitted.

Ms. DeVos asked about a pie chart showing agency resource allocation. Paratransit was listed as 18% and fixed route at 82%. After some discussion, Mr. Block clarified that the chart reflects the percentage of money the City has to give Metro to support those programs after figuring in revenue from programs such as the MA waivers.

Mr. Tangney asked what the annual budget for fuel is. It is projected to be \$4,984,400 for 2009. The 2007 actual was \$3,182,790, so it has increased significantly, although it was already on the rise in 2008.

Also built into the budget Metro submitted was a March 1, 2009 start for the fare

increases. It didn't seem realistic to be able to implement it prior to that time. There will be no service level changes except the impact from the October 2008 changes already planned. But again, the Mayor and the TPC still need to approve any fare increases.

Ms. DeVos said that service changes are a big issue. There was talk about elimination of holiday service. Mr. Block said that Metro had to come up with that 5% reduction plan, which equals about \$500,000. These are ideas the Mayor can choose from should the need arise. One idea was to cut holiday service. Metro hopes not to use this idea. Dr. Cobb said it was unfortunate to include it. His experience is that in putting ideas you like and don't like, inevitably the ideas you don't like are the ones that end up getting used. Mr. Tangney added that in watching meetings during which cutting service is discussed, he can see that staff really cares about service and it is agonizing to make cuts the budget might require. Dr. Cobb said problems are caused more by the use of personal transportation rather than public transportation. We should encourage more use of public transportation rather than cutting it.

One positive in the budget is a savings of \$300,000 because of contract options with paratransit contractors and schedule efficiencies. Those efficiencies are with the improvements on the duplication of service splan. Ms. Martin hopes to present more information about this at the next meeting. The option for two more years of service with First Transit, a contractor, was not renewed. Because of the pricing, this is part of the \$300,000 savings.

One increase in expenses requested in the budget is increased security at the South Transfer Point. Metro will address these problems. After looking at a variety of options – Metro staff, off duty police officers, private security – Metro decided to go with uniformed, unarmed private security to have a presence from 4:00 to 10:00 PM eight months a year (not during the coldest weather when activity is lower) 40 hours a week. If the Mayor approves \$150,000, that would cover this cost. The focus would be the South Transfer Point (STP), though it could be used at others if necessary.

Mr. DuRocher said that as much as possible, Metro should get the Madison Police Department (MPD) to cover security at the STP and have those costs come from their budget. They don't seem to have the same budget struggles Metro has. Ms. Gullickson said that crime response is still the purview of the MPD. However, in consulting with other community resources, it was felt it would be good to have a Metro presence at transfer points to discourage people hanging out and doing business there that has no relationship to transit use. It would be very expensive for the MPD to use their staff to monitor this on a regular basis like Metro wants.

Mr. Block said that a large increase in 2009 is salaries, which increased close to six percent. Although the Union contract authorizes a 3% increase, the 6% also includes things like longevity pay. However, Metro anticipates a significant decrease in overtime pay. Another large increase is in supplies, which includes diesel fuel. There is a fairly big increase in capital assets. That does not include fixed route buses. These are assets which won't have a 10 year life. \$649,100 has been budgeted, but Metro will get 80% of that funded. Four paratransit buses are included in the budget – three replacements and one new to keep up with capacity needs.

The budget will be finalized by the middle of November by the Common Council. Dr. Cobb asked if it would be possible to see the Mayor's budget before the Common Council meets on it. The Mayor makes his decision in early October and then makes his budget public, so that will be available.

6. [11911](#) Resolution - Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) 2008

Attachments: [RSVP.pdf](#)

This resolution has been sent to the Common Council and referred for approval. It is a program with Dane County that Metro does every year. There is usually a multi-year agreement, but because the contract has changed format, this is a one year agreement being done late in the year. Dane County's RSVP is one of the largest and most successful. The unit cost is about \$2. The program includes meal delivery and assisting/driving passengers to appointments. It has become mostly for medical appointments as there is not a lot of money left for social situations.

Dr. Cobb moved to endorse the RSVP agreement; Mr. DuRocher seconded. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

7. [11912](#) Pending List - Update

Attachments: [Pending List 01 18 07 II.pdf](#)

The group discussed issues to add. Mr. Tangney mentioned that there is another wheelchair accessible taxi service in town, Capitol Express. They have one accessible vehicle but are currently doing special medical service and not demand response. They are able to do contract work but not licensed for taxi service.

Ms. Martin reminded the group of things they have brought up in past meetings: 1) bus stop accessibility; 2) continuous effort to solicit outlets for fare media; 3) driver recognition.

Ms. DeVos proposed that idea of making awards for paratransit and mainline drivers who do something special for passengers with disabilities. The group could discuss how often to do this – annually, semi-annually, etc. She also proposed outlets for senior/disabled passes in specific, but also all passes. Dr. Cobb had suggested at a previous meeting that Walgreens would be a good outlet; Ms. DeVos suggested broadening that to all pharmacies and hospitals. The Warner Park Community Center has wonderful accessible facilities, but you can't get a bus pass there. Other ideas are the Goodman Pool, Olbrich Gardens and the Wingra Boathouse.

Ms. DeVos said a recurring favorite of hers is to address policies on clearing snow from bus stops. Mr. Tangney had an idea of using neighborhood groups to solicit volunteers who would agree to be responsible to keep a bus stop, a corner or an intersection clear of snow during the winter. This could be

approached through Alders who could go to the neighborhood groups.

Ms. Martin addresses items currently on the pending list. Migration has been an issue since day one, and there is continuous progress on that. The proposed Care Wisconsin Agreement builds in incentives for migration to fixed route service. Sensitivity training will be on the agenda next spring and summer, well in advance of requests for proposals.

Ms. DeVos said that every time there are schedule changes, it causes some people to migrate from fixed route service to paratransit service because perhaps they can no longer walk the distance to the nearest bus stop or they cannot ride a wrapped bus. It is impossible to know what the cost is. At some point, the savings or revenue from these changes is offset by the cost of people who now have to use the more expensive paratransit service. We need to figure out a way to track reverse migration issues.

Mr. Tangney asked for an example of a migration incentives. Personal Care Assistants (PCA) now ride fixed route free when working as they do on paratransit. Ms. DeVos said a disincentive is that some programs will pay for paratransit rides but not fixed route rides. Members felt Metro could save money by giving these riders free bus passes. Ms. Martin said that has been brought up many times but has never been instituted. Ms. Jacobs said that a greater issues for the majority of paratransit users from her experience is that for cognitive or other reasons, they simply cannot use mainline service. Her program does encourage mainline use whenever possible.

8. [10785](#)

Reports - Non-Action Items

- a. Transit & Parking Commission
- b. Commission on People with Disabilities
- c. Contracted Service Oversight Subcommittee
- d. Dane County Specialized Transportation Committee
- e. Long Range Metro Transit Planning Ad Hoc Committee
- f. Other Community Meetings
- g. Staff Report - On-going Projects

a. Transit and Parking Commission – Mr. DuRocher said the TPC suspended the Segway policy as ADATS had recommended and talked about the budget.

b. Commission on People with Disabilities – They did not have their last meeting. During the previous meeting, they discussed Allied Drive redevelopment and accessibility. Mr. Tangney and other recently met with Mark Olinger. There is a new architect for the project. Mr. Tangney is pleased with Mr. Olinger's sensitivity to accessibility issues.

c. Contracted Service Oversight Subcommittee – This group will meet tomorrow at Noon.

d. Dane County Specialized Transportation Committee – This group is meeting tomorrow. They have a subcommittee that is tasked with creating a locally developed coordinated transportation plan. The goal is to have a plan that gives strategies so if people come up with an idea, they can see if that fits with the priorities of the plan. Ms. DeVos asked if there was a lot of tension

between urban and rural areas. Ms. Martin said no. The Director of the Verona Senior Center was at a meeting to talk about the local plan. Ms. Martin could see that in the last few years, the perspective had changed and they now see themselves as part of the greater Madison area and want to tap into those resources. If Subcommittee members have feedback on the draft plan that Ms. Martin passed out, they can send email to Norah Cashin or Bill Schaefer or Ms. Martin can pass emails through to those people. The group has been given an extension to complete the report until the end of September. They will meet again the 25th, so get feedback in by then.

e. Other Community Meetings – No one attended other community meetings.

f. Staff Report – On-going Projects – Metro will be switching to a new phone system next week. One unanticipated result is that currently, Metro has a daytime message and a nighttime message. The new phones can only accommodate one message, so for now Metro will have to use a “press three if you’ve called after hours” systems. Staff is still working on how to have two messages.

Performance Indicators – Passenger revenue/Total Passenger Trips has jumped from \$1.05 to \$1.23. Mr. Block said that includes only fares and not County funding. He is not sure what accounts for the dramatic increase. Ms. Martin said that increases such as that are usually due to an error. Mr. Block said he would continue to look into this.

Operating Cost/Passenger Trip increased from \$27.58 to \$28.89. The increase is in large part due to fuel costs. Fixed rate amounts went from \$3.00 to \$3.12.

Ms. DeVos said that comparing fixed route cost per trip with paratransit cost per trip is a false comparison because fixed route trips often include one or more transfers.

Ms. Martin said that year-to-date totals trips are up just over 1%. The increase per year is usually 3% or 4%. She attributes the small increase to last winter’s bad weather. Ms. DeVos said the larger your base is, the larger the increase has to be to show in a percentage. Ms. Martin said that there have been increased efficiencies in directly operated trips; she feels good about that. Total trips are up. It is a concern that Badger Cab is getting fewer trips but late reports are up at 17.83%.

9. [08706](#) Other Transit Related Announcements - Non-Action Items

There were no other items.

[11914](#) Attachment: Performance Indicators July 2008

Attachments: [Para Indicators July08.pdf](#)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Cobb moved adjournment; Mr. Tangney seconded. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.