

**RESOLUTION NO. TC 20-51
OF THE
CITY OF MADISON, WISCONSIN
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Approving Actions Taken During the COVID-19 Health Crisis

Date Presented: 4/15/20

Date Adopted: 4/15/20

Approving actions taken by the Director of Transportation and the Transit Manager to protect the health and safety of Metro Transit employees and passengers and to provide for consistent and reliable service during the COVID-19 health crisis.

WHEREAS, in early February 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Dane County Wisconsin and by the middle of March 2020 the community was no longer focused solely on individual COVID-19 cases but was also focused on protecting the entire community, preparing for the next stage of virus and considering precautionary steps.

WHEREAS, during the second week of March 2020, Metro Transit conferred with Public Health Madison and Dane County, the APTA and FTA to determine best practices for COVID-19 prevention for transit agencies.

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020 in an effort to protect the health and safety of its employees and passengers Metro Transit (1) reduced capacity on its buses to 15 passengers plus the driver, (2) asked passengers to exit through the rear doors, (3) requested that Metro Transit be used only for essential trips such as travel to employment, medical appointments grocery stores, etc, and (4) asked passengers to maintain a distance of 6 feet from the driver and fellow passengers; and

WHEREAS, during March 2020, Metro Transit began providing periodic charter service to transport people experiencing homelessness deemed at high risk of COVID-19 to hotel rooms and beginning on March 31, 2020, Metro Transit began providing daily charter service to transport men experiencing homelessness between day shelter facilities and overnight shelter facilities; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020 Metro Transit reduced service to Saturday schedules plus commuter routes all seven days of the week in order to reduce the number of transit operators exposed to the public on any given day and plan for consistent service if driver absences due to illness increased; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Metro Transit instituted rear door entry to improve social distancing for transit operators. Passengers requiring assistance in boarding continue to board through the front door. Rear boarding required suspension of fares; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, pursuant to Madison General Ordinance Section 3.19, the Mayor issued an Emergency Proclamation, based on the increasing transmission of COVID-19 within the City of Madison; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Governor of Wisconsin issued Emergency Order #12 ordering individuals to remain home except for Essential Travel; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation's authority to manage, operate, control, and maintain the city's transportation is limited by M.G.O. § 33.56(5), which states that decisions related to the following items must first be approved by the Transportation Commission:

"(5) Powers and Duties. The Transportation Commission shall decide the transportation issues listed below in a manner that is consistent with the transportation policies and plans adopted by the Common Council:

(a) Transit .

1. Transit service standards;
2. Transit fares;
3. Transit route additions, extensions or contractions;
4. Transit changes in schedules and hours of service;
5. Rules necessary to ensure safety for bus passengers;
6. Regional transit contracts (services and pass programs);
7. Bus routes and stops;
8. Charter service, taxis, limousines, courtesy cars, hotel buses, jitney services hire-and-drive service, ride-sharing, car-sharing, transportation network companies, subscription bus service, park and ride facilities, and any other issues pertaining to the operation of the City's transit and services;
9. Transit for people with disabilities.

WHEREAS, in her updated Emergency Order dated March 26, 2020, the Mayor temporarily suspended the limitations placed on DOT authority in M.G.O. § 33.56(5) so that the DOT could take action on the above items, if necessary, in order to ensure the public health, welfare and safety of its employees and the users of the City's transportation system during the evolving public health emergency, subject to the caveat that any action taken pursuant to the Mayor's updated Order is later ratified by the Transportation Commission when it is able to meet; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the public health, welfare and safety of its employees and passengers while continuing an essential service the following actions have been taken that pursuant to Madison General Ordinance Section 33.56 (5) require the approval of the Transportation Commission.

1. Reduction of service to Saturday service plus commuter routes,
2. Reduction of capacity to 15 passengers plus a driver,
3. Rear door entry and exit,
4. Suspension of collection of fares,
5. Operating as a charter service as allowed by the Federal Transportation Administration during declarations of emergency to transport people experiencing homelessness from day facilities to overnight shelter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that, the Transportation Commission ratifies the following actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic (1) reduction of service to Saturday service plus commuter routes, (2) reduction of capacity to 15 passengers plus a driver, (3) institution of rear door entry and exit, (4) suspension of collection of fares, (5) operation as a charter service to transport people experiencing homelessness.

Approved this 15th day of April, 2020, by the City of Madison Transportation Commission.

Ann E. Kovich, Chair
Transportation Commission