



## City of MADISON ACTION ITEM DETAIL

April 9, 2025

**ACTION TITLE:** Metro Transit – Leg File 87624 - Amending Sections 1.08 and 11.09 to provide Metro staff the authority to issue citations for nonpayment of bus fare.

**PRESENTER:** Eric Finch, Mick Rusch

**CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS:** Eric Finch/Mick Rusch

**ACTION SUMMARY:** Approve proposed amendment to City of Madison ordinances regarding non-payment of Metro bus fares.

**BACKGROUND:** Through the years, Metro bus drivers have addressed passengers for nonpayment of fare on a case-by-case basis. With the introduction of rear-door boarding on 60-foot BRT buses and 40-foot buses, passengers no longer need to walk past the driver. Metro drivers enforcing fare policy on their own face risks from the conflict between the driver and passenger.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

A City ordinance already exists for nonpayment of bus fare. The new language grants certain Metro employees the ability to issue citations for nonpayment of bus fare rather than needing to bring in the police. This ordinance:

- Lowers the minimum fine for nonpayment of fare
- Allows Metro Supervisors and staff to enforce fare payment, reducing burden on our drivers
- Allows for more cost-efficient fare enforcement than MPD involvement
- Will serve as a tool in rider education efforts as Metro seeks to encourage fare payment

**There are no plans at this time to issue citations under the new ordinance.** This ordinance change just clarifies rules and administrative procedure if Metro were to go in this direction to possibly help address repeat problems. It will allow Metro to place placards in buses indicating that Metro staff can issue citations for nonpayment of fare, which should encourage payment.

If Metro were to consider implementing a plan for issuing citations, it would need to be reviewed by the City's Transportation Commission, communicated to other city agencies, and there would need to be opportunities for feedback provided by Metro employees, riders, and the general public. Addressing any potential concerns from front-line staff would be vitally important before implementing such a plan. Additional staff training would also be required.

**EQUITY GOAL IMPACTS:** None. Any future fare evasion policy/procedure would need to be thoroughly reviewed to ensure it is applied appropriately and minimizes/mitigates any potential equity impacts.