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Committee: Transit Commission	Date: 4/21/2022
Common Council Item Number: ID#22-3967	Date: 5/3/2022
Submitted By: Alex Damien, Interim Director of Public Works	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KL
Finance Department Review: Denise Vandebush-Kohlman, Interim Finance Director DVK	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney
Subject: Review and act on Proposed Agreement with Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc. to Extend Route 1 into Milwaukee County to the Regional Medical Center	

Details:
 This item is to review and act on the proposed agreement with Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc.(MTS) to operate Route 1 into Milwaukee County to the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center (MRMC). MTS is the operating corporation of the Milwaukee County Transit System. As was communicated to the Transit Commission and Common Council in July 2021, Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties requested that the City consider extending the Route 1 east of Brookfield Square to the MRMC to meet the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line Milwaukee County will be operating starting in Spring 2023. The BRT will replace the current Milwaukee County Gold Line but the BRT will not extend west of the MRMC which leaves a gap in east-west transit service between Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties as the Gold Line currently operates to Brookfield Square where it connects with the Route 1. Milwaukee County's BRT consultant concluded that most feasible and efficient option to replace the east-west connection would be to extend Route 1 to meet the BRT at the MRMC. SEWRPC concurs with this assessment and recommends this connection in the Waukesha 2023-2027 Transit Development Plan.

The agreement lays out the service parameters for transit service east of 124th St. in Milwaukee County. All service provided in Milwaukee County will be paid for by Milwaukee County. In addition, the local share costs (20%) for the three additional buses needed for the extension is built into the hourly rate the City would bill Milwaukee County for its portion of the buses (other portion would be included in the rate billed to Waukesha County). Other administrative costs are also included in the hourly rate to make providing the extension cost neutral to the City. The agreement would be for 2023 with a one year option and the proposed rate charged to MTS is \$105.05/hour of service for 2023. The plan is to have this be an annual agreement the first few years of operation to allow for making major adjustments to the agreement and then consider a longer term agreement once the extension has been in operation for a few years.

This extension would spread Metro's fixed costs across more service hours and allow Metro to leverage the extension to possibly extend service hours of other routes if desired to do so.

This service has several positives for City of Waukesha passengers including:

1. More direct service from Waukesha through Brookfield to the MRMC and the new BRT line.
2. Shorter east-west travel times in the City as the draft Route 1 routing would operate more direct service in the City of Waukesha.
3. Increased frequency of trips every 20 minutes during daytime service Monday-Saturday vs. every 30 minutes currently.
4. Extra hour of service at night and extended weekend hours in the morning and evening.
5. Holiday Service. Currently there is no holiday service on Route 1 but the extended Route 1 would include holiday service which is something that has been repeatedly requested for years as many passengers still have to work on major holidays.
6. Shorter transfer times between Route 1 and the BRT as both Route 1 and the BRT route will operate at higher frequencies than the current service which should reduce transfer times.

The only decrease in service would be on Sundays where service would operate every 45 minutes vs. every 30 minutes currently. Despite increased frequency of service Monday-Saturday, the proposed straightened Route 1 combined with less service on Sunday and a change in billing of Waukesha County service hours would likely result in a net savings to the City.

Routing changes to Route 1 as well revisions to other routes will be considered when the Transit Commission and Council reviews SEWRPC's Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the City later this year.

The additional service provided in Brookfield east of Brookfield Square will be paid by Waukesha County. Currently there is no written agreement between the City and Waukesha County for the service the City currently provided in Brookfield, however Waukesha County is drafting an agreement for the transit services Metro provides for Waukesha County in Brookfield and will be brought forth in the near future.

Options & Alternatives:

The only alternative would be to reject the request to extend the Route 1, however it would mean not taking advantage of the positives that were detailed above for both passengers and the City. In addition, Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties could then choose another operator for bus service east of Brookfield Square or completely eliminate Waukesha Metro from providing any service along Bluemound Rd. which would make transit service for City residents much less convenient.

Financial Remarks:

The service extension in Milwaukee County would be paid for by MTS and the per hour rate for 2023 is proposed at \$105.05. As detailed above, the extension should be cost neutral to the City.

Executive Recommendation:

Recommend approval.