



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: Transit Commission	Date: 10/7/2021
Common Council Item Number: 21-2889	Date: 10/9/2021
Submitted By: Alex Damien, Interim Director of Public Works	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KL
Finance Department Review: Bridget Souffrant, Finance Director BS	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney
Subject: Approval of Resolution Extending the Paratransit Service Area to the Entire City	

Details:

This item is to seek the approval of a resolution that would authorize the extension of the paratransit service area (operated as Metrolift) to the entire City of Waukesha effective January 2, 2022. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that public transit providers provide complementary paratransit service within a 3/4 mile radius of its fixed routes to individuals that are unable to ride the fixed route service. When overlaying the current ADA requirement service area for Metrolift over the City Map, only very small portions of the City primarily in the western and southern areas are excluded. The impact of this extension is believed to be small in terms of additional trips and costs. Using City GIS data, SEWRPC estimates that 3% or 2,400 citizens of Waukesha are excluded from the current Metrolift service area and an estimated 250 of those citizens have some form of disability. Only a portion of the estimated 250 citizens would have a qualifying disability making them eligible for Metrolift.

This proposed change would extend the Metrolift service area throughout the entire City limits so that any City resident approved for the service would be eligible to ride from their home making it equitable for all residents. In addition, if in the future, fixed route services are retracted in certain lower ridership neighborhoods or replaced with an on-demand service, it could cause current Metrolift passengers in those areas to fall outside the eligible area. It has been discovered that one current passenger who was inside the ADA eligible when they started riding is no longer be eligible to ride from their home given changes to the service. Extending the Metrolift service area to include the entire City would resolve this situation for this passenger.

Extending paratransit service area beyond the ADA requirement is acceptable by the Federal Transit Administration and WisDOT. In our area, both Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties extend their paratransit service beyond the ADA required areas and the majority of similar sized systems in Wisconsin have paratransit service areas that cover their entire City limits.

Options & Alternatives:

One alternative would be to continue provide Metrolift within the ADA required area. This would affirm the one citizen, who was within the ADA zone now outside the ADA zone due to service changes, ineligible for Metrolift



service from their home. In addition, in the future if areas of fixed route service are retracted or switched to on-demand, Metrolift passengers in those neighborhoods would become ineligible as well.

Financial Remarks:

The estimated increase in cost of providing the additional trips at the very high end would be \$30,000 annually but would likely be much less. The City's estimated increase in cost would be no more than \$6,000.

Executive Recommendation:

Recommend approval.