



City of Waukesha
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Committee: Transit Commission	Date: 12/8/2022
Common Council Item Number: ID#22-5349	Date: 12/20/2022
Submitted By: Alex Damien, Interim Director of Public Works	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KL
Finance Department Review: Joseph Ciurro, Finance Director	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BER
Subject: Review and Act on Proposed 2023-2027 Transit Development Plan and Supporting Resolution	

Details:

This item is to review and act on the proposed 2023-2027 Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the City of Waukesha. The City along with Waukesha County requested that SEWRPC complete new 5 year TDPs for each through a joint TDP development process. The TDP will be used as a guide for planning future transit services. The development of the TDP was overseen by an Advisory Committee made of City and County staff as well as staff from the City and Town of Brookfield, business interests including the Waukesha County Business Alliance, educational groups including the School District of Waukesha, ProHealthcare and social services agencies. SEWRPC's initial steps of the TDP development was a review and evaluation of existing transit service. SEWRPC's evaluation concluded that Waukesha Metro performed well and provided good coverage for the City. The service also met service effectiveness and cost effectiveness performance standards.

Although the service performed well, SEWRPC identified potential service adjustments that could create greater efficiencies and better service. SEWRPC then went out and did initial outreach to receive input from business, educational and social service interests on transportation needs of the community. SEWRPC then incorporated national trends in ridership, use of new technologies, inventoried bus stops, assessed current ridership and forecasted future demand to then outline draft service recommendations. The initial recommendations were then presented to the Transit Commission in July 2022. SEWRPC then continued to refine the recommendations and presented them to the Advisory Committee for consideration. Public outreach was then conducted in late October to mid November, 2022 to receive feedback on the draft recommendations. The outreach included two in-person open house events (one at the Transit Center and one at Waukesha South High), a virtual meeting, a meeting with businesses at the Waukesha County Business Alliance, collaboration with the School District of Waukesha and communications with area social service agencies. SEWRPC also enabled the general public to comment on the recommendations via e-mail, mail or fax and an online survey which was provided in English and Spanish. Comments were also received on the City's social media sites.

SEWRPC then used the input received from the outreach to revise the recommendations to make final recommendations to the Advisory Committee which met on November 29th and approved the following recommendations for the City's TDP:

1. Route Re-design

The goals of the route re-design were to serve core riders, improve efficiency and make the service more attractive. The major recommended changes include shortening the duration of some routes to 30 minutes from 60 minutes and straightening out Route 1 and supplemental changes to nearby routes. The service changes are designed to make trips shorter and serve the vast majority of passengers. The tradeoff is that service would not continue in some low ridership residential areas and passengers in these areas would need to walk a few blocks to a bus stop on a main road nearby.

2. Potential Enhancements to Route 1

This recommendation is in conjunction with Waukesha County to further look at improvements to service and amenities on Route 1 that serves as the east-west connection between Waukesha, Brookfield and Milwaukee County.

3. Bus stop Improvements

This recommendation is for the City to develop a long-term bus stop improvement plan that includes making all stops ADA accessible and make other improvements for passengers such as adding sidewalk and other amenities.

4. On Demand Options

This recommendation is for the City to consider on demand options (dial-a ride) for service for less productive service areas and/or service times (particularly nights and/or weekends).

Options & Alternatives:

There are no viable options as the TDP is a guide and the City is not obligated to implement any of the recommendations and can make adjustments to the recommendations as circumstances warrant.

Financial Remarks:

There is no financial impact from adopting the TDP, however, some of elements within the recommendations could result in cost savings to the City if implemented. The TDP is to serve as a guide to the City for transit planning and actual proposed changes to service will be brought forth for approval when appropriate.

Executive Recommendation:

Recommend approval.