



City of Waukesha
 201 Delafield St. Waukesha, WI 53188
 Tel: 262.542.3700
 waukesha-wi.gov

Committee: Transit Commission	Date: 3/6/2025
Common Council Item Number: ID#25-00307	Date: 3/18/2025
Submitted By: Alex Damien, Director of Public Works	City Administrator Approval: Anthony Brown, City Administrator AB
Finance Department Review: Joseph Ciurro, Finance Director	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BR
Subject: Review and Act on Proposed Reduced Route 1 Service Levels Effective June 2, 2025	

<p>Details: This item is to review and act on proposed reduced service levels to Route 1 that would take effect on June 2nd, 2025. The route consolidation is scheduled to take effect on June 2nd as well. Route 1 has been operating its extended service to Froedtert Hospital since June 2023 now and ridership has been good overall. When the service started, the three partners (City of Waukesha, Waukesha County and Milwaukee County Transit System) agreed to evaluate service levels after it had operated for at least 18 months. While Route 1 ridership has been good, the passengers per revenue hour, the primary measure of ridership efficiency based on service levels in 2024 was 7.2 which was below the Metro average of 7.9 for 2024 and below what is typical of a high ridership route like Route 1. The Route 1 partners are in agreement to the proposed moderate reductions to increase efficiency and reduce costs:</p> <p>Weekdays Operate every 23 minutes instead of every 19 minutes during daytime hours</p> <p>Saturdays Operate every 27 minutes instead of 21 minutes during the day and evening service (after 8 pm) every 36 minutes vs. every 28 minutes.</p> <p>Sundays A slight reduction in the layover times, the time between trips, that results in one addition eastbound and westbound trips.</p> <p>Due to these proposed changes Metrolift service hours would change slightly but no current passengers would be impacted.</p>

These changes would eliminate a total of 92 hours of service a week, 15%, on Route 1 but should not impact ridership greatly which should result in a higher passengers per hour for Route 1. The service reduction in the City portion of Route 1 would be just under 27 hours per week. The total cost reductions for the City would be at least \$60,000 in 2025 and \$100,000 annually. There would also be additional operational benefits from these proposed changes with needing fewer drivers and better driver shifts. Another positive is the proposed changes would defer the replacement of one of the existing fixed route buses until at least 2035.

Options & Alternatives:

One option is to reject all of the proposed changes but none of the efficiencies or cost savings would be realized. The issue with this option is the other funding partners (MCTS and Waukesha County) are not likely to agree to this option. Another option would be to accept some of the proposed changes and/or modify as desired but the modifications would need to go back to the other partners for consideration.

Financial Remarks:

As stated in the details, the proposed changes would reduce the City's costs by at least \$60,000 in 2025 and \$100,000 annually. It also would defer the replacement of a fixed route bus until 2035.

Executive Recommendation:

Recommend approval.