



**City of Waukesha**  
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## City of Waukesha Cover Sheet

<b>Committee:</b> Transit Commission	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 10/09/25
<b>ID Number:</b> 25-02223	<b>Ordinance/Resolution Number (if applicable):</b> 2025-21
<b>Department Submitting:</b> Department Public Works-Transit	<b>Common Council Date:</b> 10/21/25
<b>Agenda Item Title:</b> Review and Act on Proposed Service Changes Effective January 12, 2026	

### Issue Before the Council:

This item is to review and act on proposed service changes to Routes 1, 5, 6, 9 and 15 that would be effective January 12, 2026. Details of the proposed changes include:

Route 1 Service Levels. The proposal is to operate Route 1 every 28 minutes instead of the current 24 minutes on weekdays and every 35 minutes instead of the current 27 minutes on Saturdays. Weekday service would have slight adjustments starting 15 minutes later at 5:30 am and ending 30 minutes earlier at 11:30 pm on weekdays, starting one hour later at 7 am and ending 45 minutes earlier at 11:15 pm on Saturdays and ending one hour earlier at 9pm on Sundays. Route 1 service reductions are proposed to reduce costs without having major impacts on passengers.

In addition, it is planned to operate Route 1 around the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center in the eastbound direction only which will save 5 minutes on the westbound trip back to Waukesha.

Due to the proposed changes to Route 1, the Metrolift hours would have slightly adjusted hours from 5:30 am – 11:30 pm weekdays, 7:00 am – 11:15 pm Saturdays and 7 am- 9 pm on Sundays.

Route 5 & 6 Changes. It is proposed to eliminate the following Route 6 trips due to low ridership: Weekdays 9:15 pm, Saturdays 5:20 pm & 6:20 pm, Sundays 3:20 pm, 4:20 pm & 5:20 pm. Route 5 proposed changes include adding a 5:20 pm Saturday trip, eliminating 3:50 pm & 4:50 pm Sunday trips. Route 6 is proposed to continue to operate to Badger Drive for the morning and afternoon peak trips on weekdays but would not operate to Badger Drive midday on weekdays nor on weekends. This is being proposed due to lower ridership to Badger Drive on off-peak weekday and weekend times and to help keep Route 6 on time.

Route 9. It is proposed to eliminate the 5:50 pm Saturday Route 9 trip due to low ridership.

It is also proposed to eliminate the Route 8 bus stop at Michigan Ave and Grandview Blvd and reinstate the bus stop at Grandview Blvd south of Michigan. This is proposed as a safety improvement.

Additional service changes planned for January 12, 2026, are:

It is planned to have Route 15 operate every hour like prior to June 2nd vs the current 45 minutes due to significant traffic delays from the East Bypass construction project. In addition, it is proposed to eliminate the first trip Inbound to the Transit Center at 6:17 am due to low ridership.

The proposed service changes require a public hearing for the service reductions proposed to Route 1, 5 and 6. The proposed service changes also require the approval of a resolution updating the routing for Routes 1 and 6.

**Options & Alternatives:**

The viable options are to approve all or some of the proposed changes or make modifications to them. The other two funding partners of Route 1, Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, already agreed to the service reductions on Route 1 so it would be difficult to move forward without approving the Route 1 changes.

**Additional Details:**

**What is the Strategic Plan Priority this item relates to:**

Financial Sustainability

**What impact will this item have on the Strategic Plan Priority?**

It reduces costs (without major impacts on passengers) which will help achieve financial sustainability.

**Financial Remarks:**

The proposed reductions are estimated to reduce expenses for the City transit by roughly \$150,0000 annually. This will help reduce the amount of Federal Relief funds needed to balance the proposed 2026 Operating Budget. In addition, the proposed service changes defer the replacement of one fixed route bus from 2031 to at least 2035.

**Executive Recommendation:**

Recommend approval.

**Recommended Motion:**

Motion to recommend to Council the approval of the proposed service changes and supporting resolution effective January 12, 2026 .

**Reviewed By:**

<b>Brian Running, City Attorney</b> by: <i>Miles Eastman</i>	<b>Date Reviewed</b> 10/1/2025
<b>Joseph P. Ciorro, Finance Director</b>	<b>Date Reviewed</b>
<b>Anthony W. Brown, City Administrator</b> <i>Anthony Brown</i>	<b>Date Reviewed</b> 10/01/2025

**Common Council  
of the  
City of Waukesha, Wisconsin**

**Resolution No. 2025-21**

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**Resolution Modifying Routes 1 & 6**

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**WHEREAS** Chapter 31.03 of the Municipal Code of the City of Waukesha authorizes the Common Council of the City of Waukesha, by resolution, to delineate the routes of mass transit systems within and outside the city; and

**WHEREAS** the City desires to modify routes to be operated by Waukesha METRO Transit.

**Now, therefore,** be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Waukesha that:

That Routes 1 & 6 be modified to operate as described in the attached route descriptions effective January 12, 2026.

That a copy of the route description remains on file with the City Clerk.

This Resolution was passed and adopted by the Common Council of the City of Waukesha the \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2025.

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Shawn N. Reilly, Mayor

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Katie Panella, City Clerk