

**Transit Plus Advisory Council
March 21, 2023 Minutes**

PLACE: Milwaukee County Transit System Administration Building, 1942 N. 17th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Large Conference Room & via Microsoft Teams Meeting

PRESENT: Grace Graves - Chair, Gerald Balezentis, David Buck, Laurel Henschel, Nilima Mehra, Marica Perkins, Arlene Washington, Mae Wingo

ABSENT: Jim Bahneman – Vice-Chair, Annie Johnson,

GUESTS: Kevin Meyers; Fran Musci, Paula Schultz, and Lisa Walters - Transit Plus

CALL TO ORDER:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January 17, 2023 and February 21, 2023 were approved.

COMMITTEES:

Driver/Reservationist Recognition Committee: no report

Membership Committee: no report

Public Relations Committee: David Buck reported that TPAC currently has 10 members. Three additional members are needed to fill the Council. More people need to be recruited. Milwaukee County's mask mandate for the bus has been rescinded. It is now the rider's choice whether or not to wear a mask. Hopefully the virus will burn out soon. David urged people to get their booster shots. If anyone is interested in joining the PR Committee please let David know. Marcia Perkins will be attending the Disability Advocacy Day in Madison tomorrow.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Paratransit Taxi Task Force: Fran Musci reported that Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is working with Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Transit Plus to figure out a path forward for taxi service. More meetings are coming up with MCDOT and DHHS. We hope to continue the current taxi contract another 120 days to the end of September so that a plan can move ahead for some kind of new taxi program. This extension will allow DHHS time to be able to issue an RFP for taxi service. There will also be a Paratransit Taxi Task Force meeting on April 3, 2023 at Independence First. We are not yet sure of the time for the meeting. TPAC members are welcome to participate in the Taxi Task Force. Fran is scheduled to give a report to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on April 4, 2023.

Van Contract Transition: Fran Musci reported that Transit Plus is meeting regularly with First Transit. Meetings to talk about computer transition are taking place weekly. We are

watching for any performance decline with Transit Express. Demand for van ridership is up and the van carriers are trying to hire more drivers. Transit Express is getting some corporate support from Illinois. Transit Plus has approximately 6,000 active clients of which two-thirds of the clients are assigned to First Transit. Transit Express is providing about 500-600 rides per day. First Transit is providing 650-700 rides per day. First Transit was purchased by Transdev. The sale was finalized two weeks ago. First Transit's name will be changed to Transdev soon. We are not expecting any local changes at present.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Meeting Teleconference ID: Fran Musci advised that the telephone number to call for the meeting is the same 414-251-4435 but the new Conference ID is 341 25 366# These are the numbers to use going forward. Let Transit Plus know in advance if you plan to have a 1:00 p.m. committee meeting, otherwise the meeting room will not be open until 2:00 p.m.

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Paula Schultz reported that Breanne the new part-time travel trainer will start on April 3rd. She will help to provide individual travel training, group travel training and sensitivity training. Testing of the new fare collection system will be ongoing in the month of March. So far testing is going well. All Transit Plus clients who have ridden the bus since January 1, 2022 will automatically get mailed a new Wisgo card in mid-April. There are 11,000 people on the list to get the new card. Fares will be capped at \$2.00 per day. Only the card or the app can be used to get a 90 minute transfer. There is no transfer if the fare is paid in cash.

CARRIER REPORTS:

American United: Not present.

Transit Express: Not present.

First Transit: Not present.

TRANSIT PLUS: Fran Musci reported that 26,683 van rides were provided in February. This was down from January 2023. There had been some bad weather days in February. Ridership in March is trending up. We are at 80% of pre-COVID ridership. The BRT called "The Connect" will be launched on June 4, 2023. It will travel from downtown to the Milwaukee County Regional Medical Center and to the Watertown Plank park and ride lot. The new fare collection system is part of that. With the inception of the BRT, the Gold Line will no longer go to Brookfield Square. Instead, Waukesha Metro will bring their Route 1 into Milwaukee County to the Medical Center. There will be a transfer point on 92nd Street between Waukesha's and Milwaukee's services. Our agreement with Waukesha provides for Transit Plus to continue paratransit service to Brookfield Square for the first year of the BRT. Paratransit riders from Milwaukee County can apply to Waukesha's paratransit program to be able to ride Waukesha's system to the city of Waukesha. Current Transit Plus clients can be processed very easily by Waukesha's paper assessment process. The on-line application process for Transit Plus is being finalized.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

ADJOURNMENT