

ENROLLED ORDINANCE 175-22

GRANT WAUKESHA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TEMPORARY  
AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND AND RESUME WAUKESHA COUNTY  
TRANSIT SERVICE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus now named Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected and has spread throughout many countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and the United States Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the State of Wisconsin has declared the existence of a public health emergency, as defined in Section 323.02(16), Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Waukesha County Executive, by proclamation pursuant to authority under Sections 323.11 and 323.14(4)(b), Wisconsin Statutes, declared a state of emergency in Waukesha County in light of the public health threat posed by COVID-19, and said proclamation has been ratified and extended by the Waukesha County Board by Enrolled Resolution 174-3 adopted March 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, County Executive of Waukesha County authorized a temporary suspension of specific commuter route trips, effective April 6, 2020, in response to the State of Wisconsin Safer at Home Order; and

WHEREAS, though the business community in Waukesha County is moving through the process to reopen safely, CDC guidelines still recommend that employees who commute to work using public transit or ride sharing should consider using forms of transportation that minimize close contact with others if feasible; and

WHEREAS, Waukesha County Transit services continue to be closely monitored and continue to experience sharp declines in ridership levels, resulting in sharp declines in farebox revenues; and

WHEREAS, Waukesha County Department of Public Works strives to respond effectively to demand for transit via ridership levels of the Waukesha County Transit system; to use County funding, State funding and Federal Cares Act funds responsibly; and to adhere to current recommended guidelines for public transportation.

THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WAUKESHA  
ORDAINS to give authorization to the Waukesha County Public Works Director to continue suspensions currently in place and to make temporary changes to transit level services as needed to maintain responsible use of resources and adhere to current CDC recommendations for public transportation for the duration of the Covid-19 Pandemic, not to exceed the timeframe of 12 months.

## FISCAL NOTE

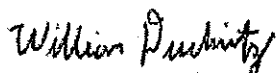
### GRANT WAUKESHA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND AND RESUME WAUKESHA COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This ordinance authorizes the Director of Public Works to continue suspensions of transit service currently in place, and to make temporary changes to transit service levels in order to make responsible use of county, state, and federal funds while adhering to Centers for Disease Control guidelines. The changes would be only be in effect during the pandemic and up to one year duration. All changes would need to be publicly posted for at least three business days before going into effect. The department would report all temporary changes to the Public Works Committee.

According to the county's contracted transit system administrator, Waukesha Metro, ridership has declined significantly during the pandemic, which results in lower farebox revenues. When farebox revenues decline, fixed costs need to be covered with additional county funds. The county was allocated \$2.1 million of federal CARES Act funding to help make up for this revenue loss and allow for the continuation of routes without adverse financial impacts to the county. However, department management indicates that there may be instances where ridership declines so much for particular routes that it would not be a good use of federal funds to subsidize.

In particular, ridership on the 901/904/905 commuter route (from various points in Lake Country to the city of Waukesha, downtown Milwaukee, and the UW-Milwaukee Campus) began declining early in the pandemic, and the number of trips was reduced 25% in response (from 32 trips to 24 trips) on April 6<sup>th</sup> through a temporary emergency declaration. Ridership has continued to decline, and the total investment per ride (county, state, and federal funding) increased to over \$100 per ride (budgeted at \$17 per ride). The overall route is now experiencing a revenue loss of approximately \$15,000 per month.

All route changes would be temporary and allow for the strategic use of federal CARES Act funding, and results in no ongoing tax levy impact.



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William Duckwitz

Budget Manager

7/8/2020

FISCAL NOTE

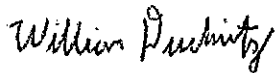
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AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND AND RESUME WAUKESHA COUNTY TRANSIT  
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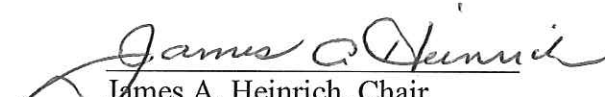
William Duckwitz  
Budget Manager  
7/8/2020

GRANT WAUKESHA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TEMPORARY  
AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND AND RESUME WAUKESHA COUNTY  
TRANSIT SERVICE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Presented by:  
Public Works Committee

Approved by:  
Finance Committee

  
David W. Swan, Chair


  
James A. Heinrich, Chair

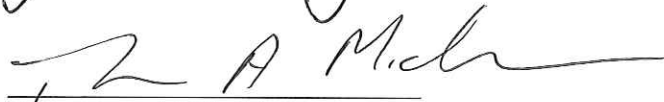
  
James Batzko


  
Tyler J. Foti

  
Keith Hammitt

  
Joel R. Gaughan

  
Christine M. Howard

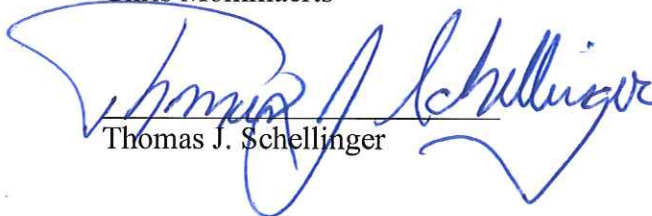
  
Thomas A. Michalski

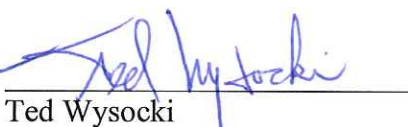
  
Darlene M. Johnson

  
Larry Nelson


  
Chris Mommaerts

  
Duane E. Paulson

  
Thomas J. Schellinger

  
Ted Wysocki

The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, was presented to the County Executive on:

Date: 7/31/2020,   
Margaret Wartman, County Clerk

The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, is hereby:

Approved: X

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 7/31/2020,   
Paul Farrow, County Executive

**Ordinance 175-O-022**



Ordinance Grant Waukesha County Public Works Director Temporary Authority to Suspend and Repeal Waukesha County Transit Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

**VOTE RESULTS: Passed By Majority Vote**

**AYE: 22**      **NAY: 0**

**ABSENT: 3**

D1 - Foti	ABSENT
D2 - Zimmermann	AYE
D3 - Morris	AYE
D4 - Batzko	ABSENT
D5 - Dondlinger	AYE
D6 - Walz	AYE
D7 - Grant	AYE
D8 - Michalski	AYE
D9 - Heinrich	AYE
D10 - Swan	Motion
D11 - Howard	AYE
D12 - Wolff	AYE
D13 - Decker	AYE

D14 - Mommaerts	AYE
D15 - Mitchell	AYE
D16 - Crowley	AYE
D17 - Paulson	AYE
D18 - Nelson	AYE
D19 - Cummings	AYE
D20 - Schellinger	AYE
D21 - Gaughan	AYE
D22 - Wysocki	AYE
D23 - Hammitt	ABSENT
D24 - Whittow	AYE
D25 - Johnson	Second