

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Mike Bonk, Interim Director
May 2021

MINUTES

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Conference Line: 414-436-3530
Passcode: 660 353 019#

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:07pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present: Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Barbara Leigh, Marcia Perkins Sue Pickering, and Meg Steimle

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Damian Buchman, Norma Duckworth, Denise Koss, and Cheri McGrath

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus, David Locher, Jesus Ochoa- MCTS

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April)

Commissioner Johnson Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Perkins 2nd the motion. All other commissioners present were in favor of approving the minutes.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Teacher Recognition – Brian Hartwig
Teacher was unable to attend. Commission will recognize the teacher at the next Commission Meeting scheduled for June.
- B. David Locher from MCTS provided the Bus Rapid Transit Presentation (BRT) Update. BRT has many benefits that will speed up the trip and increase efficiencies. There are dedicated lanes for the buses that will be added, transit signal priority that will keep lights green longer, level boarding for passengers with disabilities, the fare boarding gets collected outside the vehicle instead of inside the vehicle to speed up boarding, fewer stops along the way, and increased frequency of stops. Construction is expected to begin in June of 2021, with vehicles being secured in 2022, and starting service in the fall of 2022. MCTS will use electric vehicles with the Quantum securement system, which will give the passenger the independence to secure themselves as well as being a safer securement system. In addition, passengers with disabilities will be able to board in both the front and the rear of the bus with the level boarding system which features accessible ramps. Other accessibility features include, a platform snowmelt system, audible updates during the ride, detectable warnings on the platform for individuals with visual impairments, Braille Signage, and ADA compliant drainage. The BRT will run from the Medical Grounds in Wawautosa all the way east to the lakefront mostly along Wisconsin Avenue. Updates and more information can be found at: [East West BRT – Milwaukee County East-West Bus Rapid Transit \(eastwestbrtmke.com\)](http://East West BRT – Milwaukee County East-West Bus Rapid Transit (eastwestbrtmke.com)). Staff Fran Musci explained this will have some impacts on Paratransit service as all bus routes need to have equal access on a paratransit ride within ¾ of a mile within a bus stop.
Staff Jesus Ochoa provided a MCTS Next report. The MCTS Next Initiative is meant to attract more riders and will provide more frequent service to high frequency areas. On June 7th phase two will begin to which includes 10 route changes. For more information on MCTS Next, and specific route changes please visit: <https://www.ridemcts.com/programs/mcts-next>. Travel Trainers are available to help individuals with route planning and can meet individuals to help them plan their routes.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Staff Fran Musci reported the Federal Mask Mandate is extended until September 13th. Paratransit driver's have been having issues getting their commercial licenses approved through the City of Milwaukee due to the City of Milwaukee being backlogged.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (April)

Staff Mike Bonk explained the Office Report which included improvements at Wil-O-Way Grant such as painting the main hall space and starting construction on the Parkway that leads up to the Wil-O-Way Facility. In addition, both Day Programs have resumed programming at the Wil-O-Way Sites.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

The Wil-O-Way Key Card Program will be on hold until ticket availability becomes available. Staff has reached out to the local sports teams, and is waiting to hear back whether free and or discounted tickets will be available. Staff also is in the process of submitting a plan to reopen the Recreational Programming with EasterSeals and hopes to start summer programming, and Fall at the latest.

B. Chairperson's Report

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:28pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be June 14th, 2021, 1:00pm by virtual meeting. Please check the agenda for the link, and phone number.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission