

ENROLLED ORDINANCE 176-28

EXTEND WAUKESHA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TEMPORARY AUTHORITY
TO SUSPEND AND MODIFY WAUKESHA COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICE DUE TO
ONGOING, LOWER RIDERSHIP AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Waukesha County provides the funding for bus services to address the mass transit needs of employers and employees commuting in and between Waukesha County and its neighboring counties, and

WHEREAS, in December of 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, on April 6, 2020, the County Executive of Waukesha County authorized a temporary suspension of specific commuter trips in response to drastically reduced ridership, and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the County Board of Supervisors passed Enrolled Ordinance 175-22 granting the Waukesha County Public Works Director temporary authority to suspend and modify transit services to maintain responsible use of resources in light of reduced ridership and to adhere to CDC recommendations for public transportation for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, for a period not to exceed twelve months, and

WHEREAS, the business community in the transit service areas of Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties are moving through the process to reopen safely, and

WHEREAS, Waukesha County Transit services continue to be closely monitored and continue to experience significant declines in ridership levels on specific services due the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in sharp declines in farebox revenue, and

WHEREAS, the Waukesha County Department of Public Works strives to respond effectively and efficiently to transit ridership demand, and continued service flexibility is desirable as we rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic in order to use County funding, State funding and Federal funding responsibly.

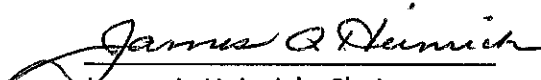
THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WAUKESHA ORDAINS that the authorization of the Waukesha County Public Works Director to make temporary changes to transit level services in order to appropriately respond to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain responsible use of resources is extended to December 31, 2021, or until sooner terminated by further action of the Board.

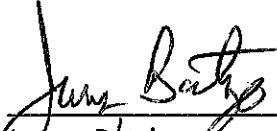
EXTEND WAUKESHA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO
SUSPEND AND MODIFY WAUKESHA COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICE DUE TO
ONGOING, LOWER RIDERSHIP AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

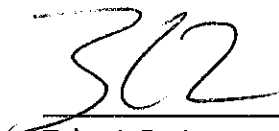
Presented by:
Public Works Committee

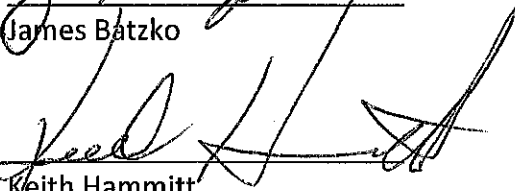
Approved by:
Finance Committee

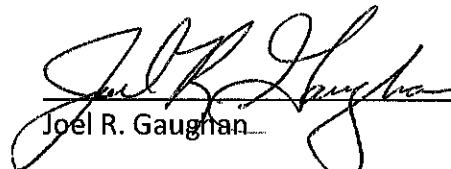

David W. Swan, Chair


James A. Heinrich, Chair


James Batzko


Tyler J. Foti


Keith Hammitt


Joel R. Gaughan

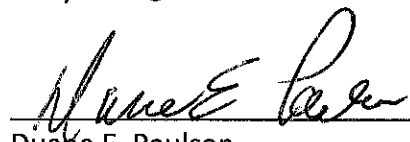

Christine M. Howard

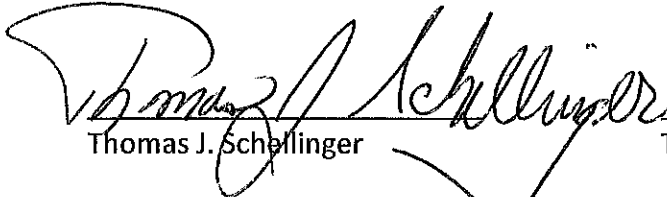
Absent
Thomas A. Michalski

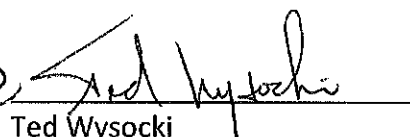

Darlene M. Johnson


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: 6/25/2021, 
Margaret Wartman, County Clerk

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

Approved: X
Vetoed: _____

Date: 6/28/2021, 
Paul Farrow, County Executive

FISCAL NOTE

EXTEND WAUKESHA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TEMPORARY AUTHORITY
TO SUSPEND AND MODIFY WAUKESHA COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICE DUE TO
ONGOING, LOWER RIDERSHIP AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

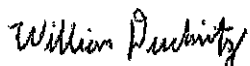
This ordinance authorizes the Director of Public Works to continue making temporary changes to transit service levels in order to make responsible use of county, state, and federal funds in order to appropriately respond to the continuing effects of the pandemic (by adjusting the level of route operations, where appropriate) and to maintain responsible use of resources until December 31, 2021 or until terminated by further action of the County Board. The original temporary authority was granted through July.

This ordinance will effectively extend the authority granted in Enrolled Ordinance 175-22. All changes made by the Director of Public Works would need to be publicly posted for at least three business days before going into effect. The department would continue to report all temporary changes to the Public Works Committee.

According to the county's contracted transit system administrator, Waukesha Metro, Waukesha County Transit services continue to be closely monitored and continue to experience significant declines in ridership levels due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic (e.g., employees working from home), resulting in sharp declines in farebox revenue. When farebox revenues decline, fixed costs need to be covered with additional county funds. The county was allocated \$6.2 million of federal funding (e.g., CARES Act), which can be used to make up for revenue losses and allow for the continuation of routes without adverse financial impacts to the county. (The 2021 budget already includes \$360,000 of this federal funding to help mitigate the impact of the lower ridership during the pandemic.) However, there are instances where ridership declines are significant for particular routes and these funds could be used more productively. These revenues are multi-year funds, which can be used strategically to phase-in service levels as ridership returns, cover fluctuations in other transit funding sources, and adjust to changing transit needs.

Total ridership on routes being operated currently is estimated at 45% of pre-pandemic service levels. Waukesha Metro estimates that farebox revenues systemwide are \$17,700 below budget per month on average, and operating fewer trips under this temporary authority is helping offset with lower costs. Ridership will be monitored this summer to determine when additional trips should be reinstated. Additional trips may be added back after Labor Day based on information provided from the Milwaukee County Transit System that businesses plan to begin transitioning employees back to downtown Milwaukee locations.

All route changes continue to be temporary and allow for the strategic use of federal funding, resulting in no ongoing tax levy impact.




William Duckwitz
Budget Manager

VOTING RESULTS

AYE 23 NAY 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

Ordinance 176-O-030

Ordinance 176-O-030: Extend Waukesha County Publi...

 **Passed By Majority Vote**

D1 - Foti	ABSENT
D2 - Zimmermann	AYE
D3 - Morris	ABSENT
D4 - Batzko	AYE
D5 - Dondlinger	AYE
D6 - Walz	AYE
D7 - LaFontain	AYE
D8 - Michalski	AYE
D9 - Heinrich	AYE
D10 - Swan	AYE
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	AYE
D24 - Whittow	AYE
D25 - Johnson	AYE

June 22 2021 - June 22 2021 07:11:34 PM

