MEMORANDUM

To: TARC Board of Directors

From: Ozzy Gibson, Interim Executive Director

Date: December 18, 2024

Re: Resolution 2024 –47 Implementation of January 2025 Service Changes

Title VI Equity Analysis

Transit Authority of River City (TARC) is proposing implementation of service changes effective January 26th 2025. These service changes are proposed as an attempt to balance TARC FY 2025 budget and improve service delivery and reliability.

In the long-term, these service adjustments will also prepare TARC for the upcoming TARC 2025 system restructuring plan that could be implemented in Spring of 2026.

Proposed January service adjustments are in line with TARC's limited financial resources, rising cost of service, number of available operators, and planning for the FY 2026 Budget.

January 26th 2025 service reductions include:

- One route elimination (#52-Medical Circulator)
- Two routes discontinuation and service consolidation with two other routes:
  - #22 - 22nd Street - route discontinuation and consolidation with route #18-Dixie Hwy
  - #63 - Crums Lane – route discontinued and consolidation with route #29-Eastern Pkwy
- Route #4 - frequency reductions from 15 to 20 min all day, and Southside Drive Branch elimination
- Route #10 - frequency reductions from 15 to 20 min all day, and service to Watson Lane discontinuation
- Routes # 17-Bardstown Rd – schedule changes and route reduction (the route ends on Eastern Pkwy)

- Route #18 - absorbing Route #22 north of Algonquin Parkway. Improved service on Saturday and Sunday (Route #22 did not operate on weekends). Frequency improved from 60 minutes to 40 minutes.

- Route # 25 – schedule and the end of line routing changes. Also, frequency improvements from 70 to 60 minutes.

- Route #29 – absorbing current route #63 service. Frequency improvements from 60 to 50 min all day.

- Route #40 - schedule adjustments, with frequency improvements from 90 to 70 min all day.

- Minor schedule adjustments on routes #6, #15 and #21.

A brief summary of the proposed service changes was presented to the TARC's Board of Directors Operations Committee at the November 13th 2024 meeting.

Under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements and guidelines, FTA Circular C 4702.1B, TARC has analyzed and evaluated proposed January service changes for any potential impact on TARC's fixed routes and paratransit customers.

Five TARC routes proposed for changes meet the thresholds for major service changes and for a detailed Title VI analysis: #18, #22, #29, #52 and #63.

Routes proposed for discontinuation and service consolidation, #22, #52, and #63, have been analyzed for operating efficiency, performance, cost of service, and ridership. These local routes have low ridership and high cost per boarding. They also operate in the areas where other local routes are available within a walkable distance, or transfers.

Frequency improvements on routes #18, #25, #29 and #40 will help to provide better service and less waiting time for customers using these routes.

At this time no changes are proposed to the TARC's paratransit service area, and there will be no impact on TARC paratransit.

While balancing limited financial resources, managing the budget and level of service systemwide, TARC's primary goal is to avoid, minimize or eliminate any adverse impacts the proposed service changes could have on TARC's ridership, especially any impact that would be borne disproportionately by minority or low-income populations. Any potential adverse or disproportionate effects of service changes on minority or low-income passengers will be evaluated, monitored and mitigated with existing or proposed alternative measures.

Major service changes on five routes, as proposed for January 2025, can have potential impact on the community and public transit ridership in some areas. While developing this proposal,

TARC made every effort to adjust routes' schedules to minimize and avoid potential disparate impact and disproportionate burden on the most vulnerable populations in the community, including proposing frequency improvements on four routes.

Under Federal Transit Administration requirements, and as part of the Title VI Program, TARC performed a detailed statistical and demographic analysis of service changes and TARC ridership. The purpose of the Title VI Equity Analysis and evaluation process is to address any potential impact of the revised service on TARC's passengers, with a focus on minority and low-income populations.

TARC has a longstanding commitment to meet both, the spirit and letter of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.

We are presenting the proposed January 2025 service changes Title VI Equity Analysis to the Board of Directors for review, input, and approval at the December 18th 2024 Board Meeting.

Public Participation Process

In accordance with the TARC's Public Participation Policy, TARC has solicited public comments on the proposed service changes through various channels of communication, and through the two open-house public meetings held on Oct. 13th and 14th 2024. All public comments have been reviewed and public input considered before presenting to the Board for final consideration and approval.

The public has been solicited to comment through a news release widely distributed through the TARC website, media, local elected officials, and social media. TARC solicited comments through the ridetarc.org website, phone line, and social media outlets Twitter and Facebook. The public can provide comments to TARC at any time via phone, email, letters and social media. A Summary of the Public Comments will be presented to the Board along with the Title VI analysis.

Attached to this Memo is a Summary of the Title VI Equity Analysis, including detailed description of the proposed major service changes to five routes. In accordance with TARC's Major Service Change Policies, the Summary explains data used, methodology, and outcomes of the analysis.

Service Changes Analysis

Per TARC's adopted Service Change Policies, January 2025 proposed service changes do not constitute a major service change systemwide.

Changes proposed to single routes, #18, #22, #29, #52 and #63, present major service change in their service areas. Based on the outcomes of the performed statistical analyses, these routes' service area demographics are greater than 10% of the TARC service area demographics, thus statistically creating a potential disparate impact or disproportionate burden on minorities and low-income population in some pockets of their service area. The statistical analysis and data that could present impact of these changes are outlined in the attached Title VI Equity Analysis Summary.

TARC will continue monitoring ridership and routes' performance on a regular basis, and any potential impact on all TARC customers with focus on minority and low-income passengers. Potential concerns and impact related to proposed service changes will be further evaluated, and if needed, adjusted with the next TARC's regular service adjustments in June 2025.

Attachments:

- Title VI Equity Analysis - Service Changes January 26, 2025
- Public Comments Summary for January 2025

The attached resolution seeks the TARC's Board of Directors approval of the Title VI Equity Analysis for the proposed January 26, 2025 service changes. If you have any questions, please contact me at 502-561-5100.

Resolution 2024-47 - Implementation of January 2025 Service Title VI Equity Analysis

WHEREAS, Transit Authority of River City (TARC) is implementing January service changes effective January 26th 2025; and

WHEREAS, under the FTA requirements and guidelines, FTA Circular C 4702.1B, TARC has analyzed and evaluated proposed service changes for potential impact on the community, as well as minority and low-income populations; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Title VI Equity Analysis and evaluation process is to address any potential impact of the revised service on TARC's passengers, minority and low-income populations; and

WHEREAS, Service Changes and the Title VI Analysis are prepared in conjunction with TARC's strategic and operating goals, TARC's financial resources, and TARC's adopted Service Change Policies; and

WHEREAS, these changes will help TARC to address its future financial situation while balancing TARC's budget in the coming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, these changes will also prepare TARC for the future short and long-term system restructuring (TARC 2025 Plan) and improvements in service performance and efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, TARC has a longstanding commitment to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, TARC's goal is to avoid, minimize or eliminate any adverse impact of service changes that would be borne disproportionately by minority or low-income populations; and

WHEREAS, any potential adverse or disproportionate effects of service changes on minority or low-income passengers will be mitigated with existing or proposed alternative measures; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with TARC's Public Participation Policy, TARC has solicited public comments on the proposed service changes through various channels of communication, and in person open house public meetings held in October 2024; and

WHEREAS, the attached Summary of the Title VI Equity Analysis for the proposed changes is part of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Title VI Analysis statistically presents disparate impact or disproportionate burden of the proposed route and service changes on TARC customers; and

WHEREAS, any impact will be mitigated through other service options available in the area; and

WHEREAS, statistically identified impact on low income and minorities populations will be mitigated with other TARC routes available within walkable distance, or transfers to other routes; and

WHEREAS, that impact will also be mitigated with frequency improvements on four routes in the system (#18, #25, #29 and #40); and

WHEREAS, impact related to proposed service changes will be further evaluated, and if needed, mitigated with the next service adjustments in June 2025; and

WHEREAS, the TARC January 26th 2025 Service Changes Title VI Equity Analysis has been prepared and reviewed under the Federal Transit Administration requirements and guidelines, Circular FTA C 4702.1B; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Transit Authority of River City that:

The TARC January 26th 2025 Service Changes Title VI Equity Analysis is hereby approved.

Adopted this 18th day of December 2024.

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Ted R. Smith, Chair Board of Directors