

#SAVE THE BUS

Potential Service Reductions / Public Engagement

Wisconsin Transit Riders Alliance

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April 26, 2023

#SAVE THE BUS – Background / Implications



- MCTS is facing a projected \$26.5 million budget crisis in 2025 due to long standing structural budget problems and the expiration of temporary federal COVID-19 relief funding.
- A \$26.5 million cut would result in a 20% cut to bus service which could represent nearly one half of all routes spread across the county.
- Thousands of residents, especially those in disadvantaged communities, would not be able to get to work, go shopping, or attend school.
- These cuts would derail the progress MCTS has taken to make service more attractive, i.e., the CONNECT Bus Rapid Transit line (begins June) and redesigning the entire route network to make service more frequent / easier to understand.

#SAVE THE BUS – Impacts on Economy / Residents



- Failing to invest in transit will have cascading ramifications for all of us — setting back the economy by exacerbating labor shortages and reducing educational and health outcomes in our community:
 - 70,000 fewer jobs would no longer be near a bus route
 - 2,300 fewer businesses would no longer be near a bus route
- 125,000 people would no longer live near a bus route:
 - 60,000 persons of color
 - 30,000 people with disabilities
 - 15,000 senior citizens

#SAVE THE BUS – Potential Route Cut Scenario



- 45% of routes could be eliminated (16 routes of 36 routes):
 - Routes 11, 20, 22, 28, 31, 33, 34, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 68, 88, & 92
- These routes serve neighborhoods across the county:
 - Brown Deer Road
 - Port Wash. Road
 - Hampton Avenue
 - Villard Avenue
 - Congress Street
 - Vliet Street
 - Highland Avenue
 - Greenfield Avenue
 - Lincoln Avenue
 - Hopkins Street
 - Layton Avenue
 - Clement / Penn. Avenue
 - 92nd Street
 - 108th Street
 - S. 20th Street

#SAVE THE BUS – 2020 versus 2025



#SAVE THE BUS? - What can you do to help?



- You can help us #SaveTheBus! Here are 3 things you can do TODAY!
- <https://www.ridemcts.com/programs/savethebus>

1. Download the #SaveTheBus badge and share it on your social channels to start spreading the word.



2. Fill out the "Take Action" form at Move Forward MKE to advocate for sustainable funding for MCTS and Milwaukee County

- <https://www.moveforwardmke.com/takeaction>

3. Sign up to receive updates and find out more ways to help #SaveTheBus

- <https://www.ridemcts.com/programs/savethebus/i-want-to-savethebus>

Write to Legislators! KEY INFLUENCERS



- [Representative Born \(JFC Co-Chair\)](#)
- [Senator Marklein \(JFC Co-Chair\)](#)
- [Representative Katsma \(Vice-Chair\)](#) DOT budget committee
- [Senator Testin](#) DOT budget committee
- [Representative Rodriguez](#) (JFC member who represents MCTS)
- [Representative Vos](#) (Speaker)
- [Senator LeMahieu](#)

Write Legislators! - INFLUENCERS



[Senator Stroebel \(Vice-Chair\)](#)

[Senator Felzkowski](#)

[Senator Ballweg](#)

[Senator Wimberger](#)

[Senator L. Johnson](#)

[Senator Roys](#)

[Representative Zimmerman](#)

[Representative Kurtz](#)

[Representative Dallman](#)

[Representative Goyke](#)

[Representative McGuire](#)

Our Vision for MCTS – Post COVID

- Expand Bus Rapid Transit Service
 - CONNECT 1 Bus Rapid Transit begins June 4th
 - North-South Bus Rapid Transit currently in Project Development
- Expand High-Frequency service in high ridership corridors
- Use Vision 2050 Plan from Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as a guide to expand and improve transit
 - Build transit infrastructure such dedicated bus lanes and bus shelters
 - Battery Electric Buses

Thank You!

Questions / Comments?

ridemcts.com/programs/savethebus



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