

# PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSE

January 24, 2024



## Public Comment Response:

**Public Comment Preamble:** The TARC Board values hearing from its customers, TARC employees and public at large. This Board will not respond in this meeting to any comments made at this time. However, TARC will post a response on TARC's website regarding the comments made by the following meeting. In addition, the TARC Board may assign the feedback or comments to be further examined by its subcommittees and, if warranted, further addressed by TARC.

## Eric Perry

Eric Perry shared with the Board his ideas for a new route in Southwest Jefferson County that would help youth that reside in that area to receive equal education opportunities. TARC certainly understands the importance of public transportation for the community, and thus, TARC strives to provide the best service possible based on our limited budget and other resources. TARC evaluates routes and schedules on a regular basis, and continuously looks for opportunities to improve its service and adjust routes and schedules, per public input and community needs. The route that Mr. Perry presented at the Board meeting would provide much needed access and connectivity in the Southwest area of Jefferson County, and thus, TARC will certainly take Ms. Perry's comments into consideration for future routes adjustments. However, it is important to mention that in order to expand service, TARC needs additional operating funds. TARC is currently working on short and long-term solutions for transit improvements. We are developing plans for a revamped transit system that will provide sustainable and dependable public transportation service. Our goal is to support community needs and expectations while balancing TARC budget with available federal and local funds. This planning process will be underway in the coming months. TARC understands that an efficient and dependable public transportation service plays a key role in the support of economic growth and the improvement of the quality of life, access to jobs, education, social services, residential and commercial developments. Community involvement is a major component of TARC's revamp transit system plan, and thus, we invite Mr. Perry and other members of the community to stay connected and provide their input. As always, TARC appreciates the feedback from its riders.

## Larry Sloan

Larry Sloan shared with the Board his concerns about TARC's paratransit service, which is currently operated through MV Transportation. Mr. Sloan suggested to consider the possibility to bring such service in house. At this time, TARC is exploring different options on the best way to provide paratransit service. TARC has had and will continue to have a series of focus group meetings that will take into consideration our community members recommendations as we develop the next Request for Proposal (RFP) for paratransit service or consider other options.