



MEMORANDUM

To: TARC Board of Directors

From: Ozzy Gibson, Interim Executive Director

Date: June 7, 2024

Re: Resolution 2024 – 22 Implementation of Saturday Plus Service Changes
Title VI Equity Analysis

Transit Authority of River City (TARC) is proposing implementation of Saturday Plus service plan effective June 30th 2024. This service change is proposed out of necessity and in response to TARC's financial situation, as an attempt to balance TARC FY 2025 budget and reduce the impact of a potential fiscal cliff that many transit agencies are facing nationwide. In the long-term, this service adjustment will also prepare TARC for the upcoming TARC 2025 system restructuring plan and service efficiency improvements that could be implemented as soon as August 2025.

Saturday Plus systemwide service adjustments are in line with TARC's limited, declining financial resources, rising cost of service, ridership performance, and the proposed FY 2025 Budget.

Saturday Plus service reductions include primarily changes to routes' schedules and hours of service Monday to Friday, with one minor route modification (rt # 29). The three limited service, grant funded local routes are proposed for elimination. A summary of the proposed changes was presented to the TARC's Board of Directors Operations Committee at the April 10th 2024 meeting.

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

The Saturday Plus proposal includes frequency reductions and schedule changes on 19 local routes: #2, #6, #12, #15, #17, #18, #19, #21, #25, #27, #29, #31, #40, #43, #52, #63, #71, #72 and #94. TARC's core service, high frequency routes #4, #10, #23 and # 28, operate every 15 minutes on weekdays and carry 45% of the TARC's total ridership. These routes will not be impacted with Saturday Plus changes and will continue operating their current regular schedules.

Routes proposed for discontinuation, #46, #73, and #74, have been analyzed for efficiency, performance, cost of service, and impact on ridership. These local routes have limited morning and afternoon trips, very low ridership and high cost per passenger boarding. The routes are funded by a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant provided through INDOT and KYTC for the three consecutive years of service. Funding for that service will be exhausted in first Quarter of FY 2025.



No changes are proposed to the TARC's fixed routes 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, eliminate, or minimize 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 proposed alternative measures.

Major service changes, such as proposed Saturday Plus, can have significant impact on the community and public transit ridership systemwide. 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. However, the impact of the reduced level of service on our ridership will be real and will be felt by all across our service area.

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 Saturday Plus service changes Title VI Equity Analysis to the Board of Directors for review, input, and approval at the June 7th 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 June 4th and 5th 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 to 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 is attached to this Memo.

Attached to this Memo is also a Summary of the Title VI Equity Analysis including detailed description of the proposed changes. 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, Saturday Plus proposed service does not constitute a major service change systemwide. However, we realize that the entire TARC ridership will be impacted with longer wait time at some stops, less transfer opportunities, and shorter hours of operations on some routes.

Changes proposed to single routes #15, #17, #25, #31, #40, #71, present major service change in their service areas. Based on the outcomes of the performed statistical analyses, these routes' service area demographics are within +/-10% of the service area demographics, thus statistically not producing a disparate impact or disproportionate burden on minorities and low-income ridership in some pockets of their service area. The statistical analysis and data that could present potential impact of these changes are outlined in the attached Title VI Equity Analysis Summary.

Local routes' #46, #73 and #74 morning and evening trips proposed for elimination have low ridership and carry a very small percentage of TARC's weekday passengers (less than 0.5%).

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 reevaluated, and, if needed, adjusted with the next TARC's regular service adjustments in January 2025.

Attachments:

- Title VI Equity Analysis - Service Changes June 30 2024
- Public Comments Summary June 2024

The attached resolution seeks the TARC's Board of Directors approval of the Title VI Equity Analysis for the proposed June 30th Saturday Plus service changes. If you have any questions, please contact me at 502-561-5100.



Resolution 2024-22 Implementation of Saturday Plus Service Title VI Equity Analysis

WHEREAS, Transit Authority of River City (TARC) is implementing Saturday Plus service changes on June 30th 2024; 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 address its future financial situation while balancing TARC's budget in the coming fiscal years; 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, eliminate or minimize 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 June; 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 does not indicate potential disparate impact or disproportionate burden of the proposed frequency reductions and route changes on TARC customers; and

WHEREAS, the three limited service local routes proposed for elimination are low performing service, with low ridership and high cost per rider; and

WHEREAS, the federal grant funding for these three routes expires in the first quarter of the next FY; and

WHEREAS, there is a low potential impact due to these routes' discontinuation; and

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

WHEREAS, the TARC June 30th 2024 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 June 30th 2024 Service Changes Title VI Equity Analysis is hereby approved.

Adopted this 7th day of June 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted R. Smith", is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive in style.

Ted R. Smith, Chair Board of Directors