

# PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSE

July 23, 2025



## 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.

**Jill Harmer** - The Board appreciated hearing from Ms. Harmer as a frequent TARC3 user. It was good to hear that Ms. Harmer values TARC3 as it lets her maintain her freedom to come and go from the nursing home as she sees fit. Ms. Harmer expressed some concerns about reservations and that pick-ups should occur from the same location as where the passenger was dropped off. After the meeting, Director of Mobility Services, Jennifer Miles, reached out to her and got more information about Ms. Harmer's concerns, answered her questions and addressed the issues she raised. We hope moving forward that Ms. Harmer's TARC3 experience will continue to improve.

**Shelitha Breed** –All employees earn the same amount of sick time on a monthly basis. However, vacation is earned based on years of service with TARC. Ms. Breed expressed concerns about TARC's new attendance policy and the application of points thereunder. TARC recently revised its attendance policy to ensure that employees who are unable to come to work have available time, either paid or unpaid, that can be used to account for any absence. We understand that it will take time for employees to adjust to the new system, but the results thus far, with 99.7% of service going out in June and 84% on-time performance for such month, demonstrate an adjustment was needed.

**Shaun C. Spencer** – The Board appreciated hearing from Ms. Spencer on the proposal she submitted on behalf of the West Louisville Dream Team to purchase the NIA Center. As Ms. Spencer is aware, the intent to purchase agreement between TARC and Goodwill appears now that it will not come to fruition as a purchase agreement must be entered into by the parties by June 29, 2025. So moving forward, TARC will certainly consider all its options with respect to its interest in the NIA Center, including the proposal presented by the West Louisville Dream Team, which inevitably has some moving parts as far as financing the purchase of such property. The TARC Board thanks Ms. Spencer and the West Louisville Dream Team for sharing their vision and hope for the future of the NIA Center.

**Martina Kunnecke** – The Board appreciated hearing from Ms. Kunnecke and her views on the state of transit in Louisville, Kentucky. Ms. Kunnecke expressed frustration regarding the unenviable choice of the 2 new plans that were presented in order for TARC to meet its financial obligations and address the fiscal cliff. We understand that unfortunately riders may have to walk further to catch the bus as there will be less stops in the new revised plan. In addition, Ms. Kunnecke expressed that TARC has a credibility gap between community needs and what leaders will do. In order to provide additional or more frequent service for our customers, more revenue is needed. A decision to increase revenues is ultimately left up to the voters through a referendum which the Metro Council must approve to be placed on the ballot in order for Jefferson County voters to consider it.



As such, we recommend that Ms. Kunnecke share her concerns with members of the Metro Council about the need for a ballot measure to provide the additional service she believes this community needs.

**Bonnie Hudson** – We appreciated hearing from Ms. Hudson and her concerns about the intent to sell the NIA Center. Ms. Hudson expressed that when did the NIA Center become a bargaining chip for TARC's financial woes. TARC, in partnership purchased the NIA Center, 30 years ago as part of the Livable Communities Initiative by the Clinton Administration. This grant fulfilled many of the initiatives intended over these years. However, over this period of time, the building itself has unfortunately deteriorated and is need of major and costly overhauls and expenses. Plus, TARC with its new transportation plan going into effect next year no longer has a need for a transit center there. As such, TARC is not in a financial position to support the needed repairs and future maintenance to keep up the NIA Center. So, now is the time for TARC to dispose of this asset and in order to help Norton Hospital expand and to bring new residents to the immediate area to take advantage of the new resources there, a sale for affordable housing made sense when it was presented. However, that deal appears to be done, and TARC will look and consider all its options moving forward, including the proposal submitted by the West Louisville Dream Team.