

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

REQUEST FOR TRANSIT COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

ITEM DESCRIPTION: 12. Presentation of 2022-2023 SASD Free Student Rides Program

REPORT PREPARED BY: Derek Muench, Director of Transit & Parking

REPORT DATE: 8/9/22

MEETING DATE: 8/16/22

FISCAL SUMMARY:

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| Budget Line Item: | N/A |
| Budget Summary: | N/A |
| Budgeted Expenditure: | N/A |
| Budgeted Revenue: | N/A |

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

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| Wisconsin | N/A |
| Statutes: | |
| Municipal Code: | N/A |

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Shoreline Metro is entering its fifth year with the Free Student Rides Program with the Sheboygan Area School District. Each year, ridership has progressively grown (except for the pandemic-stricken year of 2020). However, during the 2021-2022 school year, Shoreline Metro saw (and experienced) and increase in violent crimes arguably as a result of this program including a fatal shooting on October 29, 2021.

Several other incidents occurred including another nearby shooting. These events have prompted many changes within the operations of Shoreline Metro including the possibility of terminating the agreement. However, after evaluation of the program and the need to continue serving students, the staff of Shoreline Metro have recommended some changes to be able to continue providing this service.

Staff have spent many hours brainstorming and analyzing ideas for areas of improvement. One area of improvement was limiting access to non-SASD students (either graduated students, students no longer in the district or students from other schools). Students that should not have had access to free rides contributed to both violent situations last school year and a several other less violent situations. These ideas have been incorporated into the new program.

The 2022-2023 SASD Free Student Rides Program is unlike any other program offered the previous four years. This program includes:

- Standardize the program (formality);
- Redefined Bus Passes instead of Student IDs;
- Re-established expectations and responsibilities;
- Documentation

Additionally, Shoreline Metro will incorporate several operational items to improve behavior and encourage safe use of the transit system:

- Express routes to the middle and high schools will not be permitted to pull in to the Transfer Station and drop off customers prior to 3:10 p.m. and 3:40 p.m. (2:10 p.m. on Wednesdays);
- Continue to use shuttles after the school runs to keep routes on schedule and accommodate regular customers;
- Express routes will drop off students at the far south end of the Transfer Station (by the office);
- Staff will continue to man the station during peak AM and PM school runs (1-2 in the AM and 3-5 in the PM);
- Staff will enforce conduct issues and take appropriate action to curb and prevent behaviors from occurring;
- Waiting shelter will remain closed until further notice (discourages loitering and unwanted behavior);
- Drivers will enforce Student Bus Passes and prevent fraudulent passes and non-SASD students from boarding;
- Other items as appropriate.

The month of September will be educational for students allowing them to get the app and their bus passes set up. Students will be required to have their passes starting October 3, 2022 or pay for transit service. Staff and drivers will work with students and schools to assist with this new process and ensure students have access to passes.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff have not given up on creating a successful and safe program for students. This program addresses many concerns and issues presented over the past several school years (and in particular, this past school year). It will take a team effort. It will take the cooperation and assistance of the SASD. We have and always will appreciate the assistance of local law enforcement agencies including the City of Sheboygan PD. We hope we can minimize their need and involvement but know they are there to support us.

ACTION REQUESTED:

No action required on this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

- I. 2022-2023 SASD Student Pass Program