

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: February 19, 2021
TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: MCTS Winter Weather Single Bus Accident – Informational Report

BACKGROUND

On the afternoon of February 4, 2021, an MCTS bus traveling southbound on 68th Street just north of State Street in Wauwatosa was involved in a single bus accident. As the bus operator approached a curve in the street, he applied his brakes only to find himself losing control of the vehicle due to slippery conditions. The bus then slid downhill until it came to a complete stop after hitting a patch of bushes and trees.

The Wauwatosa Police Department and Fire Department responded to the scene and assisted passengers out of the bus. Fortunately, none of the 13 passengers on the vehicle were injured and neither was the bus operator. Most passengers then boarded another bus to continue their trip.

The bus operator was interviewed by MCTS Transportation Department personnel, and submitted to a drug and alcohol test, as is standard following an accident of this nature. The test returned a negative result. In addition, a mechanical review of the bus did not identify any defects to the braking system that would have contributed to the accident.

In the final analysis, it was determined that the bus operator was driving too fast for winter road conditions. A short suspension was issued as discipline and served. To the driver's credit he returned to work immediately following the discipline.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

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Approved by:

Julie Esch, Deputy Director

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation