From:	Thomas Stawicki
To:	SH County Board Transportation, Public Works, and Transit; Mike Bautch; president@atu998.org; Tom; Weishan, John
Subject:	Agenda items for July 8, 2020 TPWTC Meeting
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Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Committee Members.
Speaking on behalf of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 998, Mr. James Macon President, Mr. Michael Bautch Vice President, we would like to comment on the following agenda items for today's meeting.
Item 2, file #20-528.
This union strongly supports any ordinance that would add a needed layer of safety to protecting our operators, and appreciate your actions today. We further believe that any wording should be in compliance with an already existing County Ordinance.
Milwaukee County Ordinance 63.067, states that there is no smoking, consumption of food, loud music, or littering on our buses. However, operators are exempt from portions of this ordinance. Seeing the addition of a face mask for a drivers entire shift would be impractical and highly uncomfortable, so some thought must be given for the drivers. We also believe that there is an existing rule regarding drivers wearing face masks.
Item 5, file 20-476 MCTS NEXT
This union is still not convinced that this approach will increase ridership. In fact, we believe the opposite will happen. MCTS has seen a roughly 40 percent decline in ridership over the last 15 years, and by shrinking routes, how does management intend to recover lost ridership. We further believe that this action will disenfranchise riders that are elderly, use a mobility device, or live to far from the bus stops.
Item 6, file #20-467 Route 19
This union did not have this information until only recently, so it is too early to say if we are for or against the route changes.
However, this union is encouraged that the company took operators concerns into consideration when planning for restroom stops/layovers on the North end of the route. We hope the company will be equally concerned about the drivers when they figure the time allotted for these rest stops.
Item 7, file #20-475 BRT
This union still stands in opposition to the BRT Concept and believes that the money that would be invested in the BRT would be better spent shoring up existing routes.
Item 8, file#20-535 Electric Hybrid Buses.
This union still believes that there is not enough information on this type of bus that would make it a practical choice for this climate, adding that the cost is restrictive for the county at this time. We do believe at some point in the coming years, the technology will be there and we will accept that technology at that time.
Items 9, file#20-452, 10, file#20-469, and 11, file #20-494.
This union agrees that suspension of service for the safety of passengers and our operators was a wise call, but the service suspensions should have been called earlier in the day to inform our riders. We understand that service suspension calls are not taken lightly, but there was plenty of information out there on the days service was suspended to make the call earlier in the day.
Thank you for your time and attention.
Respectfully,
Tom Stawicki
Legislative Director ATU998

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