Milwaukee County Transit System Safety and Security Task Force

Monday May 15, 2023   11:00 AM   Kosciuszko Community Center
2207 S 7th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Minutes DRAFT

1. **Call To Order at 11:04 AM**

   Members in Attendance:

   > Co-Chairperson Supervisor Peter Burgelis
   > Co-Chairperson Supervisor Ryan Clancy
   > *Sawyer Schmitt, MCTS Safety & Security Coordinator
   > (*In attendance for Brian Kading, Director of MCTS SS&T)
   > Michael Brown, ATU Local 998 Vice President
   > Todd Pisarski, Milwaukee County Parks Safety, Security & Training Manager

   Other Attendees:

   > Milwaukee County Supervisor: Juan Miguel Martinez
   > MCTS Training Manager: Jennifer Ortega
   > MCDOT Deputy Director: Julie Esch
   > County Board Legislative Assistant: James Halverson
   > County Board Legislative Assistant: Ethan Masarik

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes (May 3, 2023)**
   a. Will look to approve at next meeting June 8, 2023

3. **Review of Task Force's Purpose**
   a. Supervisor Burgelis reiterated the task force purpose from the December 2022 meeting.
   b. No comments or discussion on the purpose at this time.

4. **Member Updates**
   a. Supervisor Clancy
      i. May 10th rode along with the MCTS TSO's
         1. Overall experience was Insightful, staff has really good intentions & creative in resolving conflict
         2. Staff would like job to be more family sustaining with additional earnings and benefits

3. Staff indicated it would be helpful if had the ability to write ordinance violations
            ii. Recommendation proposed (move to agenda item #7)

5. Departmental Updates
   a. Communication from MCTS Security, Safety and Training Department
      i. Sawyer Schmitt, MCTS Safety & Security Coordinator
         1. Review of action items from previous meeting
            a. Route 80
               i. Reached out to MATC and they stated the lights automatically turn on/off dusk to dawn and updates seasonally M-F
               ii. Sat/Sun only minimal safety lights are on, but not the others
            b. HR Exit interviews data review
               i. Upload document for all to view
            c. SAFER Report
               i. Capability to provide copy to Operator?
                  1. MCTS needs to determine best method for delivery and work with internal IT department

      ii. Discussion:
         1. SAFER Report
            a. Recommendation: send copy of report to Operator using internal tool "Dayforce".
         2. Route 80
            a. MCTS will circle back in Fall when dusk approaches earlier to verify the time the lights are turning off / on at MATC

      iii. Action Item:
         1. MCTS will work with internal IT to determine how to deliver an Operator a copy of the SAFER report at one of the future meetings.

   b. Communication from Milwaukee County Parks' Ranger Program
      i. Todd Pisarski Milwaukee County Parks Safety, Security & Training Manager
         1. No specific updates for department.

6. Public Comment
   a. Public Comment
      i. See agenda item # 7

7. Discussion of Proposed Task Force Recommendation
            1. Transit Rangers
               a. Apply the Park Ranger model to the Transit Ranger recommendation

   i. Clarification: Park Rangers are not being reassigned bus operational duties, only mirroring the Park Ranger model

 b. Possibly write tickets for ordinance violations

 c. Potentially Milwaukee County employees with benefits and living wages

 d. Possibly run a pilot program or create permanent positions

   i. Dispatchers working in the same location and separate duties depending on nature of the call

    1. Operational Bus Dispatch

    2. Security Bus Dispatch

 e. Review opportunity to create permanent Transit Security Positions with MCTS

   i. What is MCTS AUS Budget?

    1. Approximate annual about $2.5M / $2.6M

 ii. Discussion

  1. Quick recap of Park Ranger responsibilities and capabilities within open area of assignments; Park Areas

  2. Consideration of bus; it's a closed area; confined space

  3. Pisarski

   a. Can provide Park Ranger training documentation and specifics on how the 12 year Park Ranger program works successfully upon request

 iii. Public Comment

  a. MCDOT

   i. Transit Ranger Program would be best housed with MCTS SS&T department

   ii. Additional personnel for MCTS SS&T Dispatchers to handle specifically security incidents with specialized training

   iii. MCDOT cannot take the hiring on as it would be temporary for a year or two and then position would end

   iv. 2024 Budget outlook

    1. Asked to cut $2M from budget by the MKE County Budget office

    2. Additional considerations may need to be made from the state later

  b. Supervisor Burgelis

   i. Considerations of active vs. passive law enforcement (security) on bus

1. If unarmed enforcement is on the bus passengers may still commit assaults / violent crimes
2. May still need armed law enforcement to be a presence to help reduce or prevent assaults

   c. Local 998 Representative
      i. Local 998 members would like to have Sheriff's on the bus, however may not be possible after feasibility report
      ii. Two-tiered system not going to work
      iii. Repetitive inappropriate actions against bus operators with passengers not receiving any corrective actions makes it seem "okay" over time; not okay.
   2. Citations
      a. Ranger citations are limited to ordinances
      b. Rangers do not have authority to detain
   iv. Action Item:
      1. Committee weigh in on the Transit Ranger proposal outlined in the ATU Local 998 letter for next meeting June 8th
         a. Provide as many specifics as possible
         b. Solutions to any obstacles
      2. Upload file: ATU, Local 998 Letter, as a potential recommendation
      3. Be ready to possibly vote yes/no on the proposal at next meeting

8. **Meeting Calendar Proposal**
   a. Public Hearing
      i. June 8th 1pm-3pm
      ii. Brown Deer Park Boathouse, 7835 N Greenbay Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53209
   b. MCTS Marketing & Milwaukee County Marketing will send out social updates for meetings
   c. Recommendations: Monday June 26th 2pm at the Courthouse RM 203R
   d. Final Recommendations: July 17th 3:30pm at the Courthouse RM 203R
9. **Adjournment at 12:14 PM**

Excellence
— ON BOARD —