



Meeting Minutes FINAL

Transit Safety and Security Task Force

IN PERSON MEETING (1942 N 17th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53205)

Call To Order

Roll Call at 9:00am

Present:

MCTS Director of Safety, Security & Training: Brian Kading
ATU Local 998 Vice President: Michael Brown
MCDOT Deputy Director: Julie Schuetz Esch
Supervisor Ryan Clancy
Supervisor Peter Burgelis
Milwaukee County Parks Safety, Security & Training Manager: Todd Pisarski
Legislative Assistant (Note taking): James Halverson
MCTS Training Manager (Note taking): Jennifer Ortega

Excused: N/A

Agenda

1. Introductions

- MCTS Director of Safety, Security & Training: Brian Kading, Safety Task Force Member
- ATU Local 998 Vice President: Michael Brown Safety Task Force Member
- MCDOT Deputy Director: Julie Schuetz Esch, Safety Task Force Staffing only
- Supervisor Ryan Clancy, Safety Task Force Member
- Supervisor Peter Burgelis, Safety Task Force Member
- Milwaukee County Parks Safety, Security & Training Manager: Todd Pisarski, Safety Task Force Member
- Legislative Assistant (Note taking): James Halverson, Not a member of Safety Task Force
- MCTS Training Manager (Note taking): Jennifer Ortega, Not a member of Safety Task Force

2. Election of Chairperson

The setup of the Safety Task Force was determined to have Co-Chairpersons. They are: Supervisor Burgelis and Supervisor Clancy

3. Election of Vice Chairperson

The committee determined this position is not needed since it will be using a Co-Chair sponsorship.

4. Review of Task Force's Purpose

Brown: Operators do not feel safe due to passengers reaching around shield, sexual harassment for female operators, waiting at the relief points BB-Guns. MCTS needs to ensure the Bus Operators get to / from the job safely.

Assaults in the MCTS reports are not reflecting when I pull the same code and look it up

Feel like having the meeting on MCTS property is hiding the task force

Would like to hear the public opinions and testimony of what's going on out there and to help protect the passengers and bus operators

Co-Chairperson Burgelis: Important to hear testimony from the public too. It was unfortunate not to have the clerk staff for a live stream and notes. It might be effective for the task force to have different meeting sites to make it more accessible to the public within Milwaukee County.

Need to have an agenda for the public of where we are now, proposals of what would like to see done. Milwaukee County Sheriffs Office had a transit division in years past and I have asked the Sheriff to provide a report as to what resources could provide, potentially for next meeting, This task force ends in December 2023; we have about 5 months left to include any recommendations in the 2024 budget.

Esch: Not all task forces have been made public. This task force was posted and accessible. I'm not a part of the task force but do you want alternatives for the public to respond too?

Co-Chairperson Clancy: It's a reasonable request to move the future meetings to the Courthouse. We seem to have consensus to have meeting sites around Milwaukee County.

Kading: No issues with holding these task force meetings at any location throughout Milwaukee County. Marketing department conducts a ridership survey annually and will find out the timeline.

5. Overview of MCTS's Security, Safety and Training Program

Kading: Security is provided by Allied Universal \$2M annually

Private security guards, not able to issue citations, must follow all traffic laws, they are not red lights / sirens, able to detain if witness a felony.

Documents presented:

“Use of Force General Principles”

“Use of Force Detention and Legal Arrest”

“Allied Universal: Monthly Activity Report: January 2023”

“MCTS Transit Security Report: December 15, 2022: prepared for Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office”

We have a greater response from MPD while downtown but problematic in other areas; general response times are unacceptable.

MCTS met with MPD and informed we have 5 allied universal squads throughout the county.

December 11th, 2022 rolled out new fare enforcement policy and have seen reductions in vandalism, operator assaults, and fare disputes called into dispatch office.

Need to understand the difference between a security incident and a disturbance. Crime in Milwaukee is out of control and our buses travel through all these neighborhoods. Our bus operators are just as open to anything happening as those who are in Pick N Save, Gas Station, public buildings, etc...

Our buses are safe, but incidents do occur.

Would like the Sheriff's department program back as it was an effective solution to help keep everyone safe on the bus.

Allied Universal had some vehicle issues, however the contract states their vehicles must be marked, Allied Universal, and we have enforced that throughout 2022 to present. Allied Universal contract is 5

years, 2023 Fall is may be reviewed / considered for renewal or actions taken.
Sleepers / Extended riders usually ride the bus and end up at the airport; MCSO sends back on the bus and it keeps cycling.

Allied is a conglomerate now and not sure about the levels of service they provide.

Dispatchers have all been Bus Operators, perhaps Instructors or Route Supervisors during their career.
The Supervisor / Manager / Director of Dispatch, have 24/7 access

Co-Chairperson Burgelis: Does law enforcement provide mutual aid when near their sites?

Are the operators recording the short fares?

Have fares gone down in January 2022 due to the fare enforcement policy?

The MCSO's is reviewing the report and will hopefully have some feedback next week.

Any questions for Brian Kading?

One thing I don't understand is why doesn't Allied Universal's vehicles state "Transit Security" or wear name tags, make it evident they are Transit Security especially if I'm not an everyday rider?

Is there a higher level of service Allied Universal can provide?

If a person wants to bring a gun on a bus they will , but if there's a sign, then it could be enforced.

Brown: Half of the Operators out there are not recording the short fares due to the time it takes to record is about 1 minute per non-paying passenger, three clicks to get to the recording screen, and this time is not built into the Operator schedule.

I've allowed sleepers to ride as long as they do not cause problems on the bus as it's cold outside.

Dispatchers do not have training on security incidents and that's why the Union would like a professional security person up there as if they see the gun they could possibly due something about it. Professional security could provide a different tone and insight to incidents on the bus.

Brown: Who is the security for Froedtert? I like the way these security officers conduct their business and had the Sheriff just monitoring.

Is it possible the county could come up with a ticket to stop some of the violations?

I read a city & state ordinance that states you need to pay fare to ride the bus.

Due to conceal and carry laws you cannot have signs on the bus that prohibit guns – kids are coming on the bus with guns.

Co-Chairperson Clancy: It's interesting that the highest incidents are sleepers on the bus / extended riders and not fare disputes.

MTS is a private company; couldn't it post signs "No weapons on the bus"? -- need to research for MTS
Add the sleeper / extended riders to the meeting notes.

6. Overview of Milwaukee County's Park Ranger Program

Pisarski: Need permits to use park and would ask people to present permits or purchase on sites: dog parks and disc golf. This ensures everyone has a good time and is safe.

City Inspectors, Bus Operators, Parks employees: all are getting threatened, Most incidents when Closing or locking bathrooms

Our goal is to be present and be a steward of the Park. Lend a hand, educate and do not come heavy handed. Have citation authority, for parking. Do not have power to arrest or detain. The approach we take is to maintain a high presence in the Park and can detour many issues.

Preserve peace, Prevent crime, Ensure respective permits are in use for respective areas

Presence: tour inside buildings / outside building / on property

Encroachments / Illegal dumping / Events (concerts in the park, community events)

8 full time rangers 2022: focused on getting out of the vehicles and do more foot patrols, engaging with

the public and have to establish that connection with the public. Often get confused with police officers.

Trying to establish a Park Ranger hotline – that will often be the person who responds to their issues. Rangers are connected with OEM to request additional resources if necessary.

Homeless population: we work with Eric and Beth to get them the proper help they need and do not remove unless presents a harm /danger.

The Rangers love what they do and use the parks even on their days off.

I had my Rangers sit with OEM to see how they operate.

Ranger Uniforms cost about \$600 - \$800 due to size.

Sherriff's office responds with their Parks division or may need to remove a squad from the freeway in a reasonable amount of time. Other times is MCSO is busy, then the municipality responds.

In the parks the Rangers turn their amber lights on and drive slowly to be visible.

Kading: How are the Rangers connected to OEM?

Oasis system – MCTS made the decision to get off of it.

Route supervisors and security are on Oasis and will transition later perhaps this year.

Pisarski: Not fully staffed due to retirements – have 7 of 8 filled – it's been difficult to hire the best fit for Park Rangers out there. Requires a certain amount of experience.

Starting pay is around \$17.00 per hour – we're right in the middle

Brown: I went to July 3rd fireworks at the Park and liked the Rangers presence ; thought they were Sheriff's due to union.

Is it possible to have Allied wear similar uniforms to the Rangers? Wackenhut matched their uniforms to MCSO and presented themselves professionally. Allied seems like young kids – it's a joke.

The hospital security team appears to be respected as law enforcement. We need that here at MCTS.

Co-Chairperson Clancy: The ride along with the Rangers was informative. They have a presence and can issue citations. The Rangers have all the skills needed (patience & negotiation), relationships with homeless. Perhaps we can get Allied training

MCSO cannot hire enough staff for their current facilities and any solutions the task force come up with need to be reasonable and actionable.

Nearly doubling the Park Rangers – how long did that take to staff up?

Co-Chairperson Burgelis: When Rangers call for escalated assistance who responds?

Need to consider what is the right level of service / enforcement for transit operators and passengers on the bus. Too strong of a presence isn't always well received. Ranger program is successful in the Park setting but may be different in transit.

Explore MCTS Transit Ranger Program along with costs.

7. Other Items

Co-Chairperson Burgelis: Need task force to consider that there are 800 eyes on the road every day, every hour, and there's lots of concerns about reckless driving throughout the County. I don't think that we are maximizing our use of infrastructure that we already have. There may be public concerns about MCSO watching video. We have all these recordings, but it doesn't seem that anyone is viewing as they could be. We could have Operator's mark incidents, for example, mark a car running a red light and have someone in the MCSO review video. Would like to see if we could address reckless driving and mail tickets.

Each bus has 10 cameras: 6 interior, 4 outside and WIFI enabled.

I've brought up with various law enforcement agencies that MCTS provides video for investigations more than 300 times a year. They are appreciative of that information and if the police on bikes are ever tired they should hop on the bus sometimes.

Co-Chairperson Clancy: Like to explore Burgelis' idea, but hesitant due to public privacy concerns and believes this is outside the scope of this Task Force.

Kading: Storage limitations on video clips and staffing may not make this feasible.

Policy for extended riders / sleepers – there's more to that than just having a policy. MCTS does not have a banning policy and need to explore.

Brown: What's the trade off with MCTS providing the MCSO with videos ?

8. Next Meeting

Will have a proposed calendar with dates, times, and locations for future meetings: Saturday morning, Mid-week day, Mid-week evening

Reports will be requested from:

- a) MCSO
- b) Allied, with Copy of the contract
- c) MCTS, Written overview of Safety and Security perspective
- d) Parks Rangers, Written overview of Park Ranger perspective
- e) Office of Equity Representative
- f) Office of Violence Prevention Representative
- g) Housing Outreach

Next meeting will be 10am 3/24/2023 at the Milwaukee County Courthouse room 203R. Not sure if the Clerks office will be able to broadcast.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am