

**County of Milwaukee**  
**Interoffice Communication**

**DATE:** 8/21/2020  
**TO:** Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
**SUBJECT:** Procedure for the Requests to Use Transit Vehicles and Suspension of Transit Service for Emergency Purposes. (INFORMATIONAL UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)

BACKGROUND

After the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 by Minneapolis Police Officers, protestors took the streets of Milwaukee County. A state of emergency was declared shortly thereafter, which resulted in the mobilization of the National Guard and stand up of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Subsequently, consistent with past practice, the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), after consultation with EOC representatives, requested the use of buses from the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to transport law enforcement and National Guard personnel throughout the county instead of operating military vehicles on local roads.

As the protests peacefully continued into early June, the EOC received reports of reckless driving, shots fired, vandalism and arson within the area bordered by Silver Spring Drive on the north, Lincoln Avenue on the south, 64<sup>th</sup> Street on the west and east to the lakefront. Because this area of the county is where most buses operate, the Milwaukee Police Department ordered MCTS to stop service for operator and passenger safety. Shortly thereafter, the EOC, in consultation with MCTS, recommended early suspension of bus service on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

In response to the early suspensions, Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson asked the Department of Transportation to develop a procedure for deciding when to use buses for transport of law enforcement personnel and suspend service for safety reasons. Also, the procedure is to include methods of communicating these decisions to all stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

The attached Administrative Manual of Operation Procedures (AMOP) for Use of Transit and Suspension of Service for Safety is a draft for County Board review. Once the County Board has reviewed the AMOP, the Department will submit it for public review for two weeks, per AMOP rules. Public comments will be considered after that two-week period. Relevant modifications will be made and then the AMOP will be formally published. It will be reviewed one year after its publication.

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

*Julie Esch, Deputy*

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Donna Brown-Martin, Director  
Department of Transportation