



May 7, 2014

To: Fox Cities Transit Commission

From: Tim Hanna, Mayor and Deborah Wetter, Valley Transit General Manager

Subject: Expansion of the Transit Commission

Several municipal funding partners have indicated that they would like to have permanent representation on the Transit Commission rather than having to rotate on and off every three years. There is also the general desire among the funding partners to begin to move toward a regional transit authority structure for Valley Transit decision-making. As a result we have looked at a number of ways to change the membership of the Transit Commission to give on-going decision-making powers to every municipal funding partner without making the Commission so large that it would have difficulty accomplishing its business.

Expanding the Transit Commission:

- Gives municipal funding partners more direct input into decisions made about Valley Transit
- Facilitates better communication to, from and between municipal funding partners
- Improves communication between Valley Transit and its funding partners
- Provides better understanding of the needs of various communities
- Actively engages all municipal funding partners
- Increases awareness and visibility in each community of Valley Transit services being provided to the community
- Makes it more likely that decisions made about Valley Transit and its services represent the perspective and needs of the member communities

At the present time there are nine seats: 5 Appleton (2 alderpersons, 3 citizens), 1 Grand Chute/Town of Menasha (rotate every 3 years), 1 Neenah/Menasha (rotate every three years) 1 Kaukauna, Kimberly, and Buchanan (rotate every three years. Each municipality could potentially have someone on the Commission every 12 years), 1 County seat (rotates every three years but they have not been on the Commission since 1998 because they don't have a three year agreement with Valley Transit so the seat has been vacant.

We recommend that the representation on the Commission be based roughly on population while making sure that every funding partner has at least one permanent seat on the Commission. To have a seat on the Commission, the municipality must have a three year termination clause in their agreement with Valley Transit. Initially, the Commission membership would be:

Municipality	FCTC Seats	Population
Appleton	5 seats	72,623
Grand Chute	2 seats	20,919
Neenah	2 seats	25,501
Menasha	1 seat	17,390
Town of Menasha	1 seat	18,498
Kaukauna	1 seat	15,462
Kimberly	1 seat	6,468
Buchanan	1 seat	6,755
Harrison	1 seat	10,839
 Total	 15 seats	

At the present time Little Chute does not have a three year agreement with Valley Transit and therefore is not eligible to have a seat on the Transit Commission. If Little Chute amends the agreement to have a three year termination clause or if other municipalities become funding partners of Valley Transit, they would be added to the Commission membership and given seats based on their population (per the 2010 Census).

Recommendation: Approve the expansion of the Fox Cities Transit Commission to 15 with the following permanent seats: Appleton – 5, Grand Chute – 2, Neenah – 2, Menasha – 1, Town of Menasha – 1, Kaukauna – 1, Kimberly – 1, Buchanan -1, Harrison – 1. Other municipalities that become funding partners with a three year termination agreement with Valley Transit would be added to the Commission when their agreement with Valley Transit is approved by the Appleton Common Council and the Board/Council of the municipality.