



Date: May 21, 2024

To: Fox Cities Transit Commission

From: Ronald C. McDonald

Re: VT Service Modification Proposal

Valley Transit provides many transportation options through 9-municipalities in the tri-county area of the Fox Cities. Valley Transit directly operates fixed-route bus service. All other services are provided contractually.

Valley Transit's mission is to provide safe, customer-focused transportation options that connect our communities to enhance quality of life. Valley Transit remains steadfast in getting people where they want to go in the Fox Cities.

Prior to COVID, the ability to maintain sufficient staffing was extremely difficult. Post COVID, its next to impossible to maintain adequate staffing.

The existing fixed-route bus service level isn't sustainable with current staff levels and limited recruitment potential. Consequently, Valley Transit reviewed available transportation options other than bus service to get people where they want to go during non-peak service times.

VT Connector service was initially established as a joint effort between Valley Transit and United Way. This demand response (micro transit) extended service hours (ESH) was designed to allow passengers employment transportation before and after the bus service is operating. Secondly, this demand response (micro transit) service operates as extended service (ESA) area, primarily allowing people living outside Valley Transit's service area to get to a transfer point and catch a bus.

Valley Transit proposes changing its weekday bus service last departure from the Transit Center to 6:15 pm on weekdays and 1:15 pm on Saturday. The VT Connector demand response service will be expanded to the following hours:

Monday – Friday	4:00 am – 6:00 am, 6:00 pm - Midnight
Saturday	4:00 am – 8:00 am, 1:00 pm – Midnight

The VT Connector ESA service to/from areas outside of Valley Transit's service area is being partially financed by United Way. United Way is ending their financial partnership. Valley Transit proposes limiting all VT Connector service to municipalities that participate contractually for Valley Transit bus, ADA, and ancillary service.

Proposed Service Modification Summary:

Valley Transit proposes changing the following transportation options throughout its Fox Cities Service Area, **effective Mid July, 2024:**

Monday – Friday Departures

4:00 am – 6:00 am, VT Connector Service (micro-transit), fare \$2.00 one-way
5:45 am – 6:15 pm, VT Bus Service (fixed-route) & VT II, current fare structure
6:00 pm – Midnight, VT Connector Service (micro-transit), fare \$2.00 one-way

Saturday Departures

4:00 am – 8:00 am, VT Connector Service (micro-transit), fare \$2.00 one-way
7:45 am – 1:15 pm, VT Bus Service (fixed-route) & VT II, current fare structure
1:00 pm – Midnight, VT Connector Service (micro-transit), fare \$2.00 one-way

VT Connector ESH & ESA transportation will be available within municipal boundaries of the Cities of Appleton, Kaukauna, Menasha, and Neenah; Towns of Buchanan and Grand Chute; Villages of Fox Crossing, Kimberly, and Little Chute

Calumet & Outagamie County Senior & Rural along with Northern Winnebago Dial a Ride services will remain unchanged.

Valley Transit is required to have a public hearing about significant proposed changes. A public hearing has been tentatively scheduled for June 04, 2024 at Appleton City Hall, 6th floor council chambers at 3:30 pm. Written comments will also be accepted until June 10, 2024.

Valley Transit staff believes the modifications delineated above will be budget neutral.

The Fox Cities Transit Commission will review and/or act on proposed changes at their June 11, 2024 meeting at 2:50 pm.

Due to staffing, Valley Transit will be closed July 4-6, 2024.