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Mayor Jake Woodford
100 N. Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54911

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Mr. Mayor,

This letter is to make you aware of a public transportation barrier for Disabled Veterans in the Fox Valley Area while at the same time, offering a recommendation which will remove this barrier and substantially enhance the quality of life for Fox Valley Disabled Veterans and Disabled Veterans residing in Oshkosh and its adjoining communities.

The majority of Department of Veterans Affairs health care services offered to disabled veterans in East and North East Wisconsin are located at the John H. Bradley Appleton VA Clinic (10 Tri-Park Way, Appleton, WI) and at the Milo C Huempfer Green Bay VA Health Care Center (2851 University Avenue, Green Bay, WI).

BARRIER ONE: While Disabled Veterans who reside in Green Bay and Oshkosh are able to ride mass transit for FREE, Disabled Veterans who reside in and around the Appleton area must pay to ride Appleton Valley Transit (**Route 12**) when they want to travel to the Appleton VA Clinic and receive medical treatment.

The following explains existing Mass Transit Policy for Disabled Veterans in the cities of Green Bay and Oshkosh:

- **GREEN BAY:** Per existing Green Bay METRO policy; Disabled Veterans are able to ride the Green Bay METRO bus system for FREE to the G.B. VA Clinic (**Route 7 LIME Line**). They must simply present their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care identification card which shows their disabilities are "service connected". See the Green Bay METRO website for specifics: <https://greenbaywi.gov/275/Fares>
- **OSHKOSH:** Per existing Oshkosh GOTRANSIT policy, Disabled Veterans are able to travel from downtown Oshkosh on the GOTRANSIT bus system for FREE from Oshkosh to Neenah (**Route 10**). They must simply present their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care identification card which shows their disabilities are "service connected". See the Oshkosh GOTRANSIT website for specifics: <https://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/transit/fares-and-passes.aspx#busfares>

BARRIER TWO: Disabled Veterans that travel for FREE from Oshkosh to Neenah via GOTRANSIT (**Route 10**), who connect to the Appleton Valley Transit (**Route 41 & Route 12**) to get to their VA medical appointments at the Appleton VA Clinic must pay vs. continuing to travel for free.

Recommendation to remove Barriers: Change existing Appleton Valley Transit policy for Disabled Veterans to emulate existing Oshkosh & Green Bay mass transit policy so all Disabled Veterans who show a VA ID Healthcare card indicating "service connected" be allowed to ride for FREE.

This change would make the following possible:

1. Disabled Veterans residing in the Appleton / surrounding area would be able to ride Appleton Valley Transit for **FREE** if they present their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care identification card which shows their disabilities are "service connected".
2. Disabled Veterans residing in the Oshkosh / surrounding area would be able to take GOTRANSIT Route 20 to Neenah, then connect through existing Appleton Valley Transit routes to get to the Appleton VA Clinic for **FREE**.

Thank you for considering this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Kevin Jurgella

Winnebago County
Department of Veterans Services

Kevin Jurgella
Veterans Benefit Specialist
"Serving Those Who Served"

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