

Notice of Hearing: _____
Date of Hearing: _____
Date Adopted: _____
Date Published: _____
Date Effective: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS, SD, TEMPORARILY REDUCING TRANSIT SERVICES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, in December 2019, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was first identified and since that time has spread throughout the world, including to every state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the first cases of COVID-19 appeared in the United States in January 2020; and

WHEREAS, the risk of community spread of COVID-19 has grown exponentially since then; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Mayor issued Executive Order No. 218 declaring an emergency to address the novel coronavirus COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor declared an emergency in the state of South Dakota in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-08 setting forth guidelines and recommendations regarding personal, business, and healthcare precautions to be taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-12 setting forth requirements regarding personal, business, and healthcare precautions to be taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Executive Order 2020-13 requiring “Vulnerable Individuals” in Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties to stay at home except when working in critical infrastructure jobs and/or conducting essential errands; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the Secretary of the Department of Health for the State of South Dakota, with the consent and authorization of the Governor, declared a public health emergency to exist within Minnehaha County, SD; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is continuing to spread across the community with national, state, and local health authorities confirming that person-to-person contact is creating a public health danger; and

WHEREAS, the risk of community spread of COVID-19 through person-to-person contact is magnified when people congregate together; and

WHEREAS, if COVID-19 continues to spread at the current rate, the available medical facilities will be stressed and eventually overloaded with critical patients; and

WHEREAS, as of 12 noon on April 13, 2020, there have been 654 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Minnehaha County, 578 of which are active (i.e., the individual is not yet considered to have recovered); and

WHEREAS, as of 12 noon on April 13, 2020, there have been 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Lincoln County, 29 of which are active; and

WHEREAS, as of 12 noon on April 13, 2020, there have been 868 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the state of South Dakota, 661 of which are active; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommend certain actions for the preparation and mitigation of community transmission of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, social distancing measures and restricting the size of gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Sioux Area Metro (SAM) provides all public transit services for the City of Sioux Falls; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has led to a 65 percent reduction in SAM fixed route ridership since March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has led to an 85 percent reduction in SAM Paratransit ridership since March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, SAM and the City of Sioux Falls can no longer sustain current transit services with 36 percent of its drivers considered “Vulnerable Individuals” pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-13; and

WHEREAS, SAM and the City of Sioux Falls desire to temporarily reduce transit services to assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19, protecting the drivers and riders, as well as the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, within FTA Region 8 (Denver Region), 34 communities have reduced transit services and 19 have suspended transit services to help reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor’s executive orders relating to such pandemic, Amalgamated Transit Union Local Number 1356 has requested and agreed to a reduction of the fixed route service provided by SAM; and

WHEREAS, a public meeting of the Public Transit Advisory Board was held on April 15, 2020, during which public input was received and considered, and the Board recommended to temporarily reduce transit services to help reduce the spread of COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS, SD:

That until Governor Noem’s Executive Order 2020-13 (“Stay at Home Order” for people over the age of 65 or for any person with an underlying health condition) is rescinded or expires, the following changes shall be in effect for Sioux Area Metro transit services in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- All routes will run hourly each weekday, except for Route 11, which will continue to run each half hour.

- All routes except for Routes 8 and 19 will follow the Saturday time schedule (as printed in the current route brochures) each weekday, with the exception that departure times will begin at 5:45 a.m. instead of 7:45 a.m.
- Route 8 will run every hour beginning at 6:15 a.m. each weekday.
- Route 19 will run every hour each weekday, departing the Bus Depot at 45 minutes past every hour beginning at 5:45 a.m.
- The last route departure time for all route services will be at 6:45 p.m. (no evening service).
- Paratransit will similarly run reduced service hours from 5:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. (no evening service).
- Saturday service will operate pursuant to the normal schedule for both fixed routes and Paratransit.

Date adopted: _____.

Paul TenHaken, Mayor

ATTEST:

Thomas Greco, City Clerk

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