

ADDENDUM

Eau Claire County Committee on Administration Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. *Virtual Meeting*

Access by Phone:

Dial In: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 2591 312 3327

Access Link:

 $\frac{https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m9c05edf0e064922ae71221b0}{c2e1ff06}$

Meeting Password: mmJdNqjt797

For those wishing to make public comment, you can submit your request to speak and/or written comment to Samantha Kraegenbrink at <u>samantha.kraegenbrink@co.eau-claire.wi.us</u> at least 60 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

1. Proclamation proclaiming February 4, 2022, as "Transit Equity Day" – **Discussion/Action**

PROCLAMATION

"Transit Equity Day"

to bring community awareness to the issues of unequal access of public transit

Whereas, Rosa Parks was an iconic figure in the movements for social justice and racial equality, and played a major role in the inception of the Civil Rights movement that ended legal segregation in the United States; and

Whereas, the immediate focus of Rosa Parks' historic protest was the unequal access of African-Americans to public transit; and

Whereas, unequal access to public transit based on race, income, and disability have persisted to this day, and have to a degree become worse, with cuts in public funding for transit and consequent fare increases; and

Whereas, affordable, reliable public transit is an essential public service, on par with utilities such as water and electricity and part of a strategy to combat climate change; and

Whereas, the expansion of public transit provides the opportunity to continue the tradition of Rosa Parks and the civil rights movement by ensuring that transit systems are affordable and accessible and that people of color, economically disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, and other marginalized populations have full access to the benefits of public transit; and

Whereas, paratransit is a necessary component for any public transit system to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities who require it. Any expansion of public transit necessitates further strengthening of paratransit so that it is minimally held to the same reliability and timeline standards as other parts of the system; and

Whereas, the expansion of public transit provides an unprecedented opportunity to create a large number of good, environmentally-sustainable, high-skill, family-supporting transit operation and construction jobs; and

Whereas, increased community access to public transit and paratransit enforces and builds mobile equity within the community.

Now, Therefore, as Chair of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors, I recognize February 4, 2022, as Transit Equity Day and support the Eau Claire Transit system's tradition of placing a red rose on the front seat of every city bus, and expanding the tradition to include paratransit vans, to remember Rosa Parks on her birthday, and draw attention to the continuing racial, economic, and other inequalities in access to adequate public transit in America.

Signed this 18th day of January, 2022
Nick Smiar, Chair of the Eau Claire
County Board of Supervisors