

For Immediate Release
April 18, 2020

Rockford Mass Transit Announces Changes To Service On Monday, 4-20-2020

Due to the effects of the COVID-19 virus on its workforce, the Rockford Mass Transit District is announcing significant changes to its service schedule for both weekdays and weekends, effective 6:15 a.m. Monday, April 20, 2020 until further notice.

Effective 6:15 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, the existing RMTD route schedule for weekdays, (Monday thru Friday only) will be reduced to the 5 existing Sunday routes, plus 4 additional routes that will help round out its service area. Service will now start at 6:15 a.m. and will end at 6:40 p.m. There will be no weekday service past 6:40 pm. Weekend service (Saturday and Sunday) will consist of the 5 Sunday routes only and will run from 9:15 am until 5:15 pm both days. Service to Belvidere has also been suspended during this time.

The new core weekday routes are the #41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 routes. Service on these routes will start at 6:15 a.m. These routes will run hourly for the first two hours and the last two hours of each day. The remaining schedule, from 8:45 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. will operate every 30 minutes. Service begins and ends at the downtown transfer center for these routes.

In addition to the core weekday routes noted above, RMTD will also be running 3 of its regular routes, the #6 Kilburn, the #20 Alpine Crosstown and the # 22 North Second Street to extend coverage weekdays only. RMTD will also be running a very modified version of the #16 and #17 City Loop routes to cover the far east side of the city weekdays only.

The modifications to the additional weekday service include the #6 Kilburn route starting at 6:15 a.m. and running every 45 minutes until 6:45 p.m. The #20 Alpine Crosstown will start at 9:30 a.m. and run every 60 minutes until 4:05 pm. #22 North Second will start at 9:45 and run every 60 minutes, ending at the downtown Transfer Center at 5:50 p.m.

The City Loops, #16 & #17 have been modified to run weekdays only from Rockford Career College to North Town in a bi-directional manner on a 60 minute headway. In so doing, riders will still have access to Javon Bea Mercy Health Hospital, and other destinations on the far East side.

Detailed information will be available on the RMTD web site shortly.

There will be no changes to the Rockford Paratransit Service.

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The changes to the route system are being made for a number of reasons. As of Friday, April 17, 2020, (5) RMTD operators have tested positive for COVID-19. This is an additional (3) operators than what was reported earlier in the week. With the addition of (1) administrative staff member, the total RMTD workforce affected is now (6). The number of staff affected is limiting RMTD's ability to provide the extra service needed when buses reach capacity and social distancing measures cannot be maintained. By reducing the number of routes during the day, RMTD will be able to better manage vehicle capacity while still maintaining coverage to most of the District's service area.

In addition to these changes effective Monday, April 20th, seating capacity on any RMTD fixed route vehicle will be limited to 10. Once capacity is reached passengers will be encouraged to use the additional service that has been added to the route structure. All passengers will also be required to wear a mask or some type of covering that covers the nose and mouth when riding on the buses. If a passenger does not have a mask, they will not be allowed on the vehicle.

These changes will be in effect until the RMTD workforce is fully staffed and the COVID restrictions have been lifted.

For more information, please contact:

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