

House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee February 26, 2021 Wes Kooistra, Metro Transit General Manager



Percent Change in Weekday Ridership

(Compared to average weekday ridership 2/24–2/28)



*Preliminary estimates, subject to change



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Transit safety is defined by our customers

- Clean and welcoming environment
- Consistent experience knowing what to expect
- Crime free



- Do not distract the driver; stand behind the yellow line.
- No soliciting.
- Keep phone calls brief and quiet.
- Shirts and shoes are required.

This is a public space. While on Metro Transit property, we expect customers to abide by this code for the safety and comfort of all.

- Keep feet, bags and service animals off seats. **One fare, one seat.**
- No laying across seats or on floor.





Transit issues are community issues

- Crime
- Unsheltered homelessness
- Untreated mental illness and chemical addiction
- Partnerships needed for systemic change



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Strategies

- Keeping vehicles and facilities clean
- Partnering with human services providers and funders
- Increasing official presence
- Leveraging technology to increase monitoring and improve response
- Enforcing reasonable conduct standards consistently and equitably







Recent Safety & Security Updates

- Increased public facilities and vehicle cleaning
- Added resources to increase official presence
- Requiring officers to spend more time on transit vehicles, less time in squad cars
- Increased Text for Safety staff
- Adding barriers for bus operators
- Installing plastic seats on light rail vehicles
- Installed real-time cameras on light rail vehicles
- Implemented body-worn cameras for police officers
- Updated Code of Conduct signage
- Investing in MTPD Homeless Action Team
- Metropolitan Council's Safety Review currently underway

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Administrative Citations Proposal

- Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to issue administrative citations for transit fare evasion
- Increases official presence on trains and buses
- More efficient and effective use of resources
- More effective fare evasion penalty