



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Metro Ride Transit – Limit Capacity**

*For Immediate Release* – September 22, 2020

Contact: Mayor Katie Rosenberg – 715-261-6800  
Greg Seubert, Transit Director – 715-261-6526

A vote on whether to change or completely eliminate current limits on the number of passengers on city buses was delayed for a week to allow for public comment.

Metro Ride Director Greg Seubert told the Thursday, Sept. 17, meeting of the Transit Commission that the current 10-passenger limit could prevent some kids from getting to school. With so many students reliant on city buses to get to school, there could be all sorts of problems if the limit is kept at 10 passengers per trip.

The capacity limit, intended to allow for social distancing, was put in place along with other Covid-19 measures to reduce risk to passengers and drivers. If the Wausau School District goes back to in-person school attendance, the allowable capacity would have to quadruple.

In order to inform school officials of the decision before the Wausau School Board meets on Monday, Sept. 28, the Transit Commission is having a special meeting at 4:15 p.m. this Thursday, Sept. 24, in council chambers at City Hall. City officials do not know for certain if school re-opening will be on the school board's agenda next week but want them to know of the capacity decision either way.

The commission, made up of three council members and two citizens, could have voted last week on whether to drop the capacity limit, but chose to have a special meeting instead to allow time to hear from the public about the potential risk of the change. Social distancing, staying six feet apart from someone not from your own household, will not be possible if the capacity limits are dropped. Director Seubert was asked to continue to work with school officials and the Marathon County Health Department to get their suggestions.

Public comment will be allowed at the beginning of the Transit Commission's Thursday meeting or it can be submitted in advance by completing this form: <https://forms.co.marathon.wi.us/forms/City-Council-Agenda-Item-Form>. Copies of any written comments submitted to the city clerk or the Metro Ride office by 12 noon Thursday will be conveyed to the commission members in time to be part of their considerations. The e-mail address of the city clerk is [Leslie.Kremer@ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:Leslie.Kremer@ci.wausau.wi.us).

Mayor Katie Rosenberg says citizens can also directly contact her or commission members Becky McElhaney, Pat Peckham, Deb Ryan, Kathi Zoern or Jen Bizzotto. Their contact information can be found here: <https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/CityCouncil/BoardsCommitteesCommissions/TransitCommission.aspx>