

ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rockford, IL

RMTD To Increase Service Hours

The Rockford Mass Transit District is pleased to announce that effective November 29, 2021, it will be adding an additional hour of service to the beginning of its core weekday routes and an additional hour of service at the end of all 6 of the night routes. Therefore, starting Monday, November 29th, the first runs of the day will start at 4:15 a.m. rather than 5:15 a.m. on core routes. All 6-night routes will run until 12:15 a.m. and the late-night shuttle will run until 12:45 a.m. getting riders to their final destination route.

For the early morning service, the core routes that will start at 4:15 a.m. include the following:

- #1 – West State
- #2 – School Street
- #4 – North Main
- #7 – South Main
- #11 – East State
- #12 – Charles Street
- #14 – 7th Street
- #15 Kishwaukee
- #16 & 17 – City Loops

Riders should note that the #2 School Street Route, a 30-minute route, will start at 4:45 a.m. The other change of note is that the #16 and #17 City Loops will start at 4:15 a.m. but the North Loop service will only run to the Walmart on Forest Hills and the South Loop service will only run as far as Rockford Career College during the additional hour of operation. At 5:15 a.m. both Loops will start their complete and regular Loop routes starting at the downtown Transfer Center.

Expanding service hours was one of four major goals for improving the system that was identified as part of the RMTD Comprehensive Mobility Study. These service improvements are the first phase of a multi-phased initiative to improve access to public transportation in the community. The first phase of the changes is the most easily implemented and has the most benefit to our passengers, specifically those needing to meet shift times for employment opportunities on weekdays.

The next phase of the changes which is currently being finalized and will be announced at a later date, will focus on improving weekend service hours and should be implemented in late January or February 2022. Additional phases of the service expansion and improvement initiative will require substantial resources and funding necessitating an extended timeline for implementation. These changes will be determined as part of the District's Fiscal Year 2023 budget discussions. These initiatives will be funded through a combination of state and federal funding.

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Currently RMTD has 18 routes that service the City of Rockford, Loves Park and Machesney Park, Monday thru Saturday. RMTD also provides limited weekday service to Belvidere and evening service in the City of Rockford. The District has 40 fixed route buses in its fleet. Currently 10 of those vehicles are hybrid electric buses. RMTD has 5 additional hybrid electric buses that it will be receiving after the first of the year and 6 full battery electric buses that it will be receiving in the second half of 2022. RMTD also provides complimentary Paratransit service to the communities it serves in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Therefore, RMTD paratransit service will also extend its service hours for those wishing to schedule rides earlier or later in the day.

Passengers are reminded that face masks are still being required based on the Federal Mask Mandate issued by the Executive Office that extends the mask mandate until September 13, 2021. Passengers not wearing masks will not be allowed to ride. RMTD will also continue its enhanced cleaning measures and will continue to wipe down all hard surfaces on the bus during the mid-day hour. Buses will also be cleaned nightly with disinfectant and systematic fogging.

For more information on the return to regular service, please go to rmtd.org or call:

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