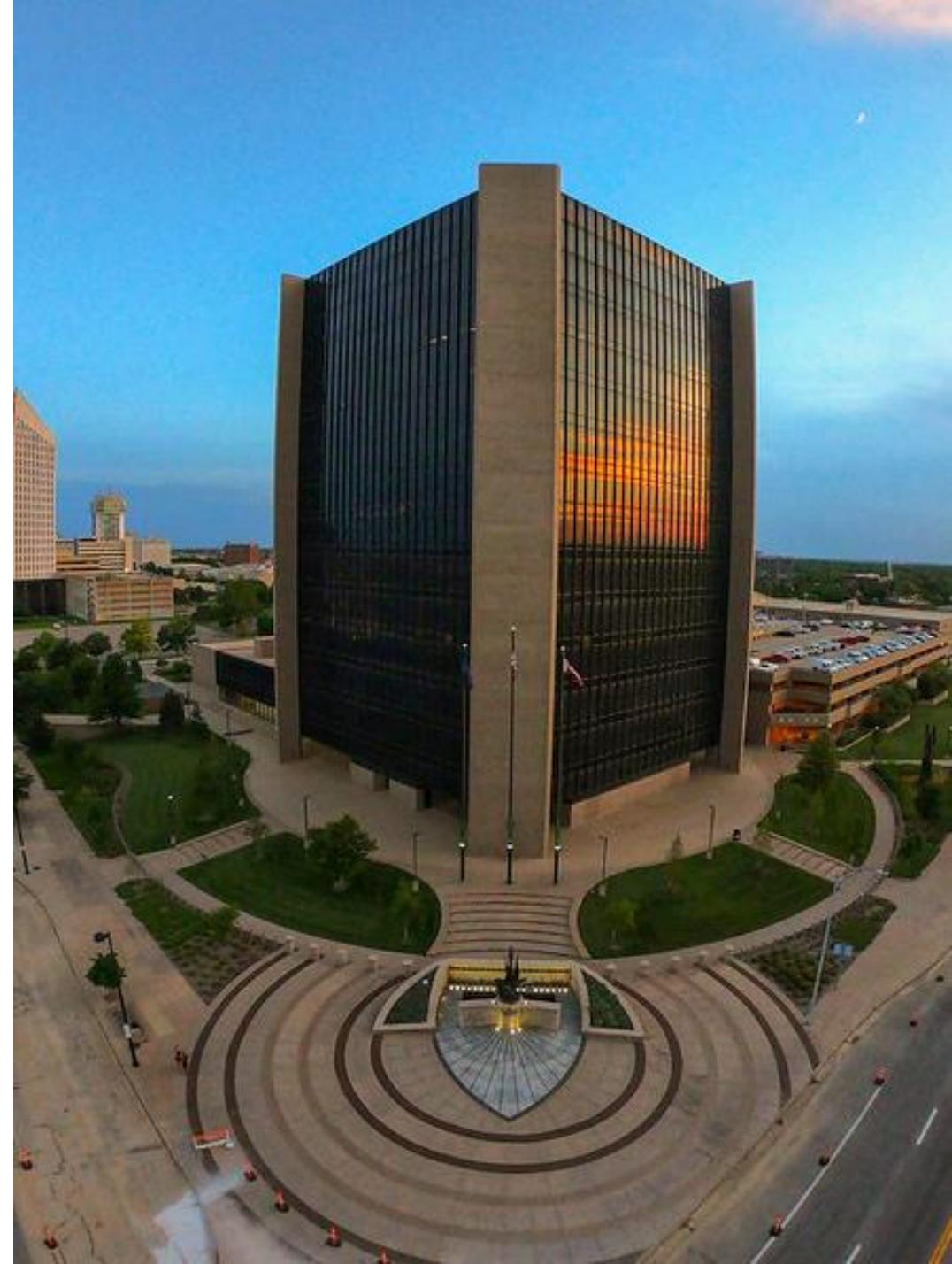


Fare Free Saturday Transit Service



Transit

May 5, 2020



Background



Due to COVID-19, many Wichita residents are without employment or have experienced a reduction in resources including transportation options. Having limited funds, the cost of transportation can additionally create a barrier for families to access resources such as food and medications. Mayor Brandon Whipple and Council Member Brandon Johnson received requests to address this issue for the impacted families.



Analysis



In an effort to reduce potential barriers and provide access and mobility opportunities during this pandemic, Wichita Transit is proposing to provide free transit services to improve access to resources for families. As proposed, free Transit service would be provided on Saturdays through the end of June. The service has been operated on a pilot basis for two weeks.



Budget



The average post COVID-19 Saturday ridership has been 1,159 trips, which represents a reduction of approximately 45% of pre COVID-19 ridership. This is consistent with public transit declines nationwide. The City's fare box revenue reduction from the free trips is estimated to be \$1,994 per Saturday. As this service is to support public transit and its continued access by residents during this pandemic, CARES funding will be utilized to compensate for the loss of fare revenue.



Recommendation



- It is recommended that the City Council approve Wichita Transit to continue provide fare free transit service on Saturdays through June 27, 2020.



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