

# Transit Equity Day



**February 4, 2022**

**WHEREAS** equal access to reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound transit it is crucial for the economic, and social wellbeing of a community and the people who live there; and

**WHEREAS** Valley Transit provides public transit and paratransit to Menasha and the entire Fox Cities area; and

**WHEREAS** Rosa Parks was an iconic figure in the movement for equal access, social justice, and racial equality, playing a major role in the inception of the Civil Rights movement that ended legal segregation and the unequal access of African-Americans to public transit in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** paratransit with the same timeliness and reliability standards is a necessary component for any public transit system to ensure equal access for people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS** Valley Transit has developed standards and a dashboard to maintain reliability of the system as well as creating an app to assist riders determine the location of buses in the system; and

**WHEREAS** Valley Transit and its member communities, including Menasha, have sought out grants and consistently fund the transit system to ensure affordable access to riders using the system; and

**WHEREAS** providing a balanced transportation system to all members of the community will reduce automobile dependence helping transition our economy from fossil fuels to renewable energy and cutting emissions; and

**WHEREAS** improving frequency and access to public transit will assist in addressing climate change providing an opportunity to continue the tradition of Rosa Parks and the civil rights movement by ensuring that transit systems are reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound, and that everyone including people of color, economically disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations have access to the benefits of transit.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that I Donald Merkes, Mayor of the City of Menasha, do hereby proclaim February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to be Transportation Equity Day in the City of Menasha. Recognizing public transit can play an important role in reducing carbon emissions, remedying racial, economic, and other inequalities, and improving the social and economic wellbeing of everyone in the community.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022



Donald Merkes, Mayor