



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 18, 2021

Re: Utilizing the Wabash Station as a Warming Center

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared a report detailing the use of the Wabash Station as a warming center for individuals without proper shelter during extreme cold weather.

Discussion

In the past year (2020-2021) the Wabash Station was utilized as a warming station for approximately nine (9) instances when nighttime temperatures were forecasted to be below nine (9) degrees Fahrenheit.

The Federal Transportation Administration did not tacitly approve using the facility for this function, but offered no specific language that would disapprove the use. The only mitigation was that using the facility as a warming center would not interfere with normal transit operations. Wabash Station begins normal operations at 6:00 a.m. Monday thru Saturday and ceases operations at 7:00 p.m.

The process for the utilization of Wabash Station was:

- Facility hours were from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. when temperatures dictated.
- CPD was issued a key to the doors of the Wabash lobby area so security (airport security personnel) could access the facility and lock the doors when leaving.
- The toilet facilities inside the lobby area remained locked during use times due to a history of extreme disregard for the facilities. Portable toilets outside the lobby area were available.
- Airport security personnel monitored the lobby area throughout the night.
- Those using the facility were moved out of the lobby area beginning at 6 a.m., and once cleared, the lobby was locked by security personnel.
- City custodial staff cleaned the lobby area each day as a part of their routine.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None



Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Inclusive Community, Secondary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
n/a	None

Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends the Wabash Station lobby be considered by Council as a warming station for those with housing insecurity using the same process as the 2020-2021 winter months, and that Council define what forecasted temperature will be used for opening the lobby area in 2021-2022.