



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: Public Works Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 18, 2024

Re: Comprehensive GoCOMO Transit Study and Operations Update

## Executive Summary

This report is an update to the GoCOMO Transit study progress and GoCOMO transit status.

## Discussion

In September 2023, Olsson reported to the Public Transportation Advisory Commission (PTAC) the process by which they will explore the study scope devised by the PTAC.

In October 2023, Olsson met with all members of the City Council, the City Manager, and the Boone County Commissioners to discuss the project scope and gather feedback regarding the GoCOMO transit system.

On November 14, 2023, Olsson hosted an open house meeting at Wabash Station for all interested citizens to discuss the project and give written feedback regarding the scope and objectives of the study. Olsson staff provided to all willing riders on the fixed route system a survey they could complete regarding the system. Olsson staff rode all fixed routes both morning and afternoon, were available for questions, and collected comments.

Olsson will return on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to conduct a study update with the PTAC and gather additional feedback. The consultants will be back in April for additional public input.

On March 1, 2024, Go COMO had 28 drivers on staff. Twenty-six drivers were available for duty. There were 5 Lead Drivers, 4 of which were available for duty. There were 3 drivers in training with 3 additional being vetted in the hiring process.

GoCOMO staff continues to interview potential drivers on a weekly or bi-weekly basis as candidates apply.

The class and compensation study has resulted in an increase of applicants and job offers being made. Unfortunately, only 62 percent of applicants hired are currently active drivers. With seasoned driver retirements and drivers on long-term FMLA leave, GoCOMO has seen a net result of 2 additional drivers compared to the same time last year. Because of the additional drivers and route combination, however, GoCOMO has reduced mandatory overtime from 12 hours per week to 4 hours per week.

Since routes were combined in August of 2023, fixed route ridership decreased an average of 40 percent per month over the previous year.



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Paratransit service increased an average of 7 percent per month from August of 2023 to March 1, 2024.

GoCOMO is seeing a steady increase in Paratransit applications and daily ridership regularly running between 250 to 300 rides per day with a high of 322 rides. The service is spread over 8 vans that cover the entire city limits which results in about 35 riders per van over the course of a 13 hour service day.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$191,920

Long-Term Impact: Unknown

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community, Secondary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Organizational Excellence

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts: 07/17/2023](#)

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation

## Legislative History

Date	Action
07/17/2023	Contract with Olsson and Associates Consulting signed

## Suggested Council Action

For Council Information.