

November 8, 2010

TO: The members of the City Council of Janesville Wisconsin

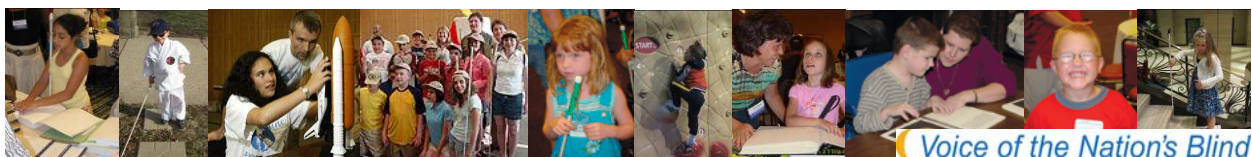
From: The Rock County Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Wisconsin

Re: Changes to the Janesville Transit Service

Dear City Council Members:

It has come to our attention that within the budget for the year 2011, a proposal has been put forward that reduces the frequency of the service on the West Court, and Kellogg routes. In response to this proposal, the National Federation of the Blind of Wisconsin's Rock County Chapter call on the council to keep the current service as it presently exists. We do so for the following reasons:

1. The proposed changes adversely impacts all of those individuals who rely upon mass transit in this part of the city. In particular, it places an undue burden on those who need to use it to access health care (Mercy Hospital, River View Clinic on West Court) grocery shopping (the only two stores are on the West Court and Kellogg run) the Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped, City hall, police station, Parker High School, Franklin Middle School, and several elementary schools. It further decreases service to facilities that provide housing to seniors and people with disabilities.
2. At a time when the city is placing an emphasis upon using renewable resources, rather than increasing our reliance on fossil fuels, this reduction will require more use of individual vehicles, rather than a more affordable, reliable, and ecologically friendly method of travel.
3. Reduction of service will make it more difficult for those who use public transportation to participate in the economy of our city. One trip that requires the use of the East Milwaukee run could take as much as four hours. One can do it using private transportation in under thirty minutes, even in heavy traffic. This doubles the current time required. A trip to the Janesville Mall could take as much as two hours, just for transportation.
4. Finally, we believe that reduction of service in this manner sends the wrong message to members of the community, and particularly to those who use and or



support mass transit, and the Janesville Transit System in particular. JTS runs advertisements on local broadcast media encouraging the use of the bus system, point out its economy, frequency, and ease of use. Up until recently, ridership

5. has increased. Fare increases have occurred, which double the cost of system use in the last ten years. We supported the increase with the understanding that service would not be cut. Cutting service will hinder this growth and excitement about public transit while leaving users of the system waiting in the cold for their bus.

We call upon the members of the Janesville City Council to maintain the current schedule and frequency of the Janesville Transit Service.

We also call upon the Janesville City Council to look at ways of expanding service, as this is part of the basic city infrastructure that many citizens rely on. Many people would like to attend worship on Sunday but cannot get to church because the bus does not run. Many would like to use the bus to get to work but cannot rely on it as they work retail and have to work on weekends when JTS does not operate.

Cordially,



Jeremiah B. Beasley  
President, National Federation of the Blind of Wisconsin Rock County Chapter

