

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Metro Announces Upcoming Route Changes to Enhance Safety and Improve Community Access**

Metro will implement several fixed-route service changes effective July 20, 2026. These adjustments are designed to better align service with community needs, support ongoing development, and improve access to key destinations throughout Kalamazoo County. Metro is committed to enhancing safety, improving operational efficiency, supporting economic growth, and ensuring that service reflects evolving destinations within our community.

#### **Route Changes Effective July 20, 2026**

##### **Route 1 – Westnedge**

- To eliminate the unprotected left turn, improve efficiency, and enhance the rider experience, the Westnedge route will no longer turn into Meijer from southbound Westnedge.
- Passengers will be directed to use stops at Andy Avenue (in front of Grand Traverse Pie Company) or Kilgore Road (In front of Hibachi Grill), if their destination is along Westnedge.
- Passengers are encouraged to use Route 13 – South Burdick, if they are trying to get downtown to the Kalamazoo Transportation Center (KTC). South Burdick will continue to provide 30-minute service.

##### **Route 6 – Parchment**

- The route will be realigned to operate along Ransom Street instead of Patterson. This change will improve access to new housing developments along Ransom near Gull Road.

##### **Route 15 – Patterson**

- The Patterson route will introduce a new alignment covering Burdick Street and Park Street Market for both inbound and outbound travel.

##### **Route 5 – East Main**

- Service will expand to cover areas along Gull Road, improving access to grocery stores, medical facilities, educational institutions, and employment centers.
- The route will begin operating hourly to cover the expanded service area, enabling riders to travel along Gull Road without requiring a transfer.

“Route changes in our community are designed to enhance safety, respond to changes in our neighborhoods, and meet the needs of our riders,” said Metro Chief Executive Officer Sean McBride. “These new designs offer more frequent access to growing areas of the community. We are committed to shifting resources where they can provide the greatest benefit.”

“Metro’s mobility solutions are designed to compliment one another while ensuring affordable and accessible transit for all,” added Metro Chief Operations Officer Keshia Woodson-Sow. “Enhancements from Metro Link, combined with improved fixed-route design, allow us to better serve an expanding community and deliver exceptional service.”

Metro is exploring opportunities to enhance service along key corridors within the fixed-route bus network. These considerations are part of an ongoing commitment to improve safety, reliability, and accessibility for all riders. These potential improvements build on recommendations from Metro’s 2023 Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA), feedback from riders and community partners regarding safety, and continued economic growth throughout the region.

Metro encourages anyone interested in learning how to use the transit system to take advantage of its complimentary travel training service. Metro’s travel trainer provides one-on-one support, answers questions, and accompanies new riders to help them learn the system. Learn more at [kmetro.com/plan-your-trip/travel-training-and-tours](https://kmetro.com/plan-your-trip/travel-training-and-tours) or email [MyMetro@kmetro.com](mailto:MyMetro@kmetro.com) to schedule a session.