

## WESTPORT TRANSIT PUBLIC MEETING

October 21, 2024

Attendees:

Peter Gold - WTD

Karina Betfarhad - WTD

Matt Pentz - NTD

Jessica Tufnell – VIA program manager (oversees every operation and go-to contact)

Reeya Shah- VIA VP of Operations

Public attendees: Dick Lowenstein and Jennifer Johnson

### **AGENDA**

VIA will provide a new turnkey service model to replace the current model, in which NTD provides buses and drivers and VIA provides software.

VIA's presentation of the turnkey service for Westport (see attached document)

The turnkey service is scheduled to launch on 11/18/2024 (Monday)

NTD will employ VIA to provide this turnkey service for Westport, NTD will continue to manage the service and will be ready to provide buses and drivers if and when VIA falls short.

VIA runs and manages 30 operations. VIA has contracts for the turnkey service in close proximity to Westport with the following transit districts: Norwalk, Stamford (11/19/24), New Haven (1<sup>st</sup> quarter in 2025), Putnam County, NY

The service hours and parameters will not change for the end user; the only change is on the operations side. Via will run the service in its entirety, including promotions and marketing.

### **Changes:**

Depot- IA's vehicles will be housed in Westport. This change will eliminate deadhead and result in cost savings.

Vehicles- instead of the current minibus shuttles, there will be more fuel-efficient minivans with wheelchair accessibility.

Minivan capacity – 5 passengers

Minivan with wheelchair access capacity- 2 passengers with one wheelchair

### **No Change:**

Fair booking platform

Hours of operation

Fare amount

Number of vehicles allocated for operation per week

### **Benefits:**

Approximately 20% less expensive than the current model.

The cost savings can be utilized toward additional new service areas.

Peter Gold moved to approve the new service model conditioned upon receipt and approval of the final contract language. Karina Betfarhad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.