



Proclamation

Mayor Mitch Reynolds

City of La Crosse

WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day is a national day of action to commemorate the February 4 birthday of Rosa Parks, an iconic figure in the movements for social justice and racial equality, who played a major role in the inception of the Civil Rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day highlights Rosa Parks' 1955 pivotal work and her brave and determined advocacy for safe and reliable public transportation for all people and communities both then and today; and

WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day is a day of action recognized to collaborate and elevate the message that public transit is a strategy to combat climate change, and that public transit promotes affordable, accessible, clean and safe transportation alternatives for all community members; and

WHEREAS, public transportation drivers are essential workers; and

WHEREAS, public transit jobs in the United States have historically been good jobs that pay family-supporting wages; and

WHEREAS, paratransit is a necessary component for any public transit system to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities who require it and any expansion of public transit necessitates further strengthening of paratransit so that is minimally held to the same reliability and timelines standards as other parts of the system; and

WHEREAS, increased community access to public transit, reduction in racial, economic and other disparities in access to transit; and increased opportunities for employment in good jobs using less polluting, safer public transit, form a key part of a "just transition" from a fossil fuel to a renewable energy-based, just economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse values equity and increased opportunities for education, jobs, services, and other necessities for all residents, no matter their income, status, age, physical condition, and ability or desire to own and drive a car; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse Common Council passed a resolution in 2019, which set a goal of reaching carbon neutrality community wide, in both energy and transportation, by 2050, especially one that transitions to electricity, and that provides affordable, accessible, useful service for all residents can help the city achieve that goal; and

WHEREAS, prioritizing transit equity helps the City reduce its community-wide transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions of 262,126 Metric Tons of CO₂e according to the 2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which is equivalent to CO₂ emissions from 29.5 million gallons of gasoline consumed; and



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WHEREAS, transit equity supports the City of La Crosse Common Council’s priority to sustain and enhance the city's status as a regional center and its role in the greater region.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITCH REYNOLDS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, hereby proclaim Friday, February 4, 2022 as “Transit Equity Day” and urge everyone in La Crosse to remember and celebrate the invaluable work of Rosa Parks and continue to find the means to create conditions for all people to thrive and proactively address disparities in health, social and economic prosperity.

Dated on this 4th day of February in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Two.



MAYOR MITCH REYNOLDS