

Delivery Report for SCLS Board of Trustees October, 2024

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Metro South Route – Restart Update:

Recently, in the last Delivery Report, I mentioned our intent to re-start the Metro South route to ease pressure on three existing routes for both volume, time, and stress. We intend to proceed with this implementation, but we are pausing full implementation as we await the return of one of our long-disabled box trucks.

The box-truck we are awaiting was involved in a rather serious accident back in May which caused damage to the rear lift-gate, the box itself, and deployed airbags. Our truck was rear-ended at a country trunk highway traffic light in Westport (Highway K and M, north of Madison while returning from Sauk County). The accident was the fault of the trailing driver who approached at high speed and failed to respond to stopped traffic at the light. Our driver had minor injuries that he quickly recovered from. The truck then began an odyssey of repair work in multiple specialties which took significantly longer than we hoped. In the meantime, we relied on back-up trucks to fill the void and keep us afloat.

As a result, we felt it was best not to introduce a permanent new route and lean on a specific truck daily until this repaired truck is returned to us. We expect that within a month. However, at that time, we will be navigating the holiday season as well. As a result, we feel that we have time to work on the plan and look to introduce the new route in early 2025 after the holidays have passed.

COVID Testing Distributions:

SCLS has coordinated the delivery of over 12,000 COVID tests in the last 5-6 weeks. We have a fourth distribution on the way from Wisconsin HSS that will be 50% more units than the last batch of 6,000 tests.

Each bulk distribution to SCLS has been opened up to all member libraries in the system and response had been robust each time. All of the tests are exhausted in less than 24 hours, so I am responding by upping the next distribution to account for the demand.

The process to move out each distribution takes about 60-90 minutes. Cooperation from the libraries is greatly appreciated as I seek to limit their quantity or cordon off their requests into easy-to-package amounts of 25/50/100 etc. SCLS also wants to have these distributions take place later in the week to avoid our typical early-week volume spikes that can strain our capacities. A handful of libraries requested 1,000 tests each (500 units) and they were already looking for more when available.

In the next distribution, I will be packaging information that seeks the participation of the patron users of the tests to submit their positive test results to a UW-Madison study. This study seeking to track the evolution of the COVID virus for mutations, locations of transmissions, and the rates of infection in order to provide greater understanding. The study is optional for participation and the tests will still be available, regardless.

At this time, all 7 counties have had requests for tests and most of our membership has taken the opportunity to request the tests. I have had to limit the quantities as we near the end of each batch, but no library has gone unfulfilled when the request has been made. Additionally, all tests have gone out on the very next delivery date for them.

We will also be expanding the distribution to include our partner statewide systems and UW campuses. It is all simply because SCLS provides the greatest possible distribution network to these locations EVERY DAY.

Volume Snapshot:

I provided a quick snapshot of our most recent volume data capture during the last week of September, 2024 and compared it to the same week in 2023. The results showed an overall gain in volume of 5.3%. Some of that increase was due to a change in how we count materials moved. By including bins that were of a

separate category of “bulk” loans, we saw an increase where these typically happen the most: Madison and Portage County. Despite that, we still have seen a 2-3% gain in all other places as transit materials remain strong and likely growing.

The bin count table here shows the county level comparisons (with Madison separated from the rest of Dane County members):

Category	2024	2023	Change
Madison	1908	1737	+171 (+9.8%)
Dane County	1984	1950	+34 (+1.75%)
Portage County	205	160	+45 (+28%)
Wood County	265	250	+15 (+6%)
Green County	166	165	+1 (+0.6%)
Columbia County	293	283	+10 (+3.5%)
Sauk County	379	379	Even (0%)
Adams County	60	70	-10 (-14%)

A greater volume study will occur for all of 2024 as it compares to the last 5 years.