Worcester Regional Transit Authority

FY26 Budget Presentation

Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN)

What is a Revenue Anticipation Note: RANs are a form of note or short-term loan that a government (WRTA) usually repays from a named revenue source within a period of one year

Interest Income that RANs generate is typically tax exempt at the federal level and may also be exempt at the state level

WRTA's main revenue sources include State Contract Assistance, Member Community Assessments, and Federal Operating Assistance

WRTA receives State Contract Assistance in three payments:

- **August / September – 50%**
- **November / December – 25%**
- **February / March – 25%**

Local Assessments payments are received monthly, 1st payment is typically received 13 months after year end

Federal Operating Assistance is requested after expenses have been incurred. Typically 8 weeks after end of month

Status of Pandemic Era Federal Funding

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES)

Original Apportionment	$36,048,200
Fiscal Year 2020 use	$373,647
Fiscal Year 2021 use	$4,626,360
Fiscal Year 2022 use	$3,426,381
Fiscal Year 2023 use	$5,126,705
Fiscal Year 2024 use	$1,597,601
Fiscal Year 2025 projected	$545,105
Fiscal Year 2026 budgeted	$8,051,610
Balance	**$12,300,791**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Original Apportionment	$5,992,829
Fiscal Year 2022 use	$619,440
Fiscal Year 2023 use	$633,402
Fiscal Year 2024 use	$744,950
Fiscal Year 2025 projected	$1,182,952
Fiscal Year 2026 budgeted	$902,356
Balance	**$1,909,729**

Worcester Regional Transit Authority
Fiscal Year 2026 Consolidated Budget

	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	$ Increase / (Decrease)	% Increase / (Decrease)
I. Expenses:				
Transit Services				
Fixed Route	$ 27,052,324	$ 25,798,349	$ 1,253,974	4.9%
Demand Response	5,881,423	5,725,310	156,113	2.7%
Brokerage / Customer Service	2,284,740	2,062,311	222,429	10.8%
Administration	2,631,504	2,012,496	619,008	30.8%
Debt Service	463,704	452,232	11,472	2.5%
Management Fee	441,216	426,780	14,436	3.4%
Total Expenses	**38,754,911**	**36,477,479**	**2,277,432**	**6.2%**
II. Revenues:				
Passenger Revenue	-	-	-	-
MassDOT Community Transit Grants	136,480	210,054	(73,574)	-35.0%
MassDOT Discretionary Grant	-	5,517,286	(5,517,286)	-100.0%
Administration Revenues	256,882	237,140	19,742	8.3%
Other - Non Transportation	23,088	26,311	(3,223)	-12.2%
Total Revenues	416,450	5,990,791	(5,574,341)	**-93.0%**
III. Federal Operating Assistance:				
Operating Assistance Special Rule	-	336,460	(336,460)	-100.0%
CARES Act	8,051,610	545,105	7,506,505	1377.1%
American Rescue Plan	902,356	1,182,952	(280,596)	-23.7%
Operating Assistance Micro-Transit	573,240	521,127	52,113	10.0%
Preventive Maintenance - Security	355,185	-	355,185	-
Short Range Transportation Planning	400,000	-	400,000	-
Project Administration	22,952	21,859	1,093	5.0%
Total Federal Operating Assistance	10,305,343	2,607,503	7,697,840	**295.2%**
IV. Net Cost of Service	**28,033,118**	**27,879,185**	**153,933**	**0.6%**
V. Net Cost of Service Funding				
A. State Contract Assistance	21,721,844	21,721,844	-	0.0%
B. Local Assessments	6,311,275	6,157,341	153,934	2.5%
Surplus / (Deficit)	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	

** Revised budget approved 03.20.25*

Motion Requested

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board moves to accept the recommendation of its Audit and Finance Committee and approve the fiscal year 2026 budget in the amount of $38,754,911 as presented

Worcester Regional Transit Authority

Communication Strategy for April 26, 2025 Schedule Changes

Promotion & Outreach Timeline

Board Approval to go to Public Meeting for Schedule Changes: November 21, 2024

Initial Outreach Requesting Public Comment Began: December 24, 2024

Public Meetings to Present Changes: January 7 | January 9 | January 16 | January 22 | January 27

Tabling Events Hosted at Hub: January 14 | January 15 | January 21 | January 23

Advisory Board Approved New Schedule Changes: February 20, 2025

Marketing Efforts for Finalized Schedules Began: April 11, 2025

New Schedules Sent to Print: April 11, 2025

Arrival of New Schedules: April 24, 2025

Communication Channels Deployed

WRTA is using multiple platforms to reach the public, including:

Website Pages & Alerts
Updated landing page with all NEW schedules

Door Hangers
Hung from the grab bars on each bus

Destination Board Messaging
Cycles through both the head sign and side sign of each bus

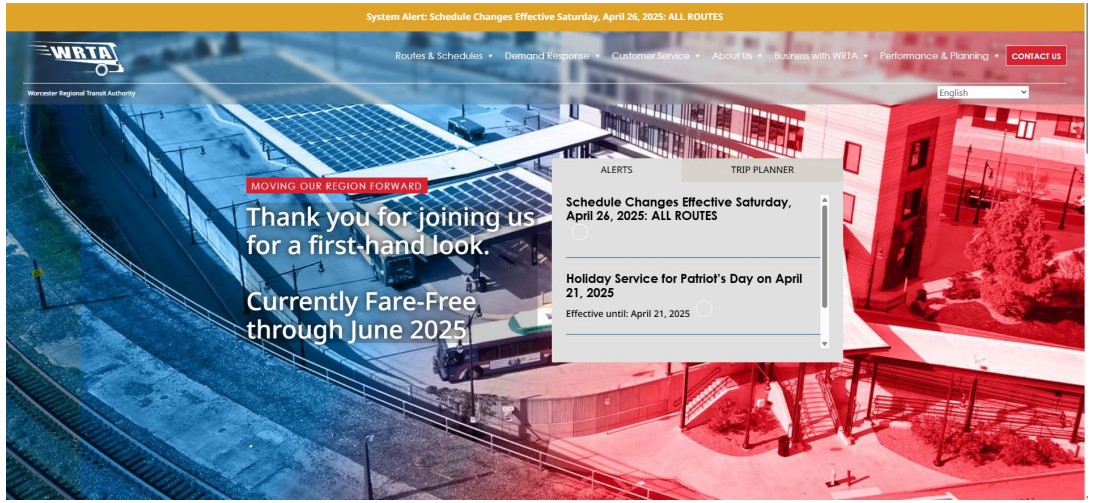
Shelter Posters
Posted on all WRTA owned shelters

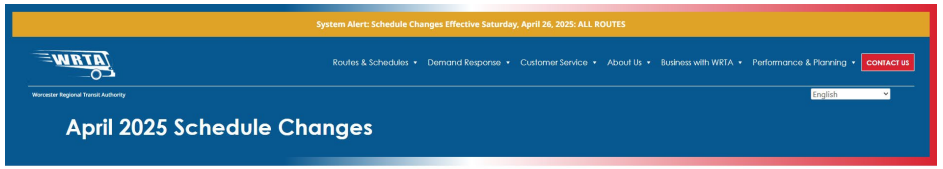
Digital Signage
On display in the Hub lobby / community in English & Spanish

Social Media Campaigns
Facebook and X

Website Pages & Alerts

System Alert: Schedule Changes Effective Saturday, April 26, 2025: ALL ROUTES





Home / Routes & Schedules / **April 2025 Schedule Changes**

Changes Are Coming to Your WRTA Ride!

WRTA is making **system-wide schedule changes** to boost **bus reliability** and improve **on-time performance**.

Additionally, Friday service is making a comeback on:

- Route 825
- Route 11
- Route 24

These updates hit the road starting **Saturday, April 26, 2025.**

Select your route below to see what's new:

ROUTE 1 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 2 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 3 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 4 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 5 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 6 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25
ROUTE 7 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 825 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 11- EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 12 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 14 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25
ROUTE 15 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 16 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 19 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 23 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 24 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25
ROUTE 26 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 27 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 29 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 30 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 31 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25
ROUTE 33 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25 | ROUTE 42 – EFFECTIVE 4.26.25

Why WRTA Recommended Changing the Schedules:

- One of the main complaints received by WRTA is that buses are running late, and are not on-time.
- WRTA buses were on-time an average of 61% from July 2023 through June 2024.
- WRTA hears you! From the 2024 WRTA Customer Satisfaction Survey, 'buses arriving on-time' received the lowest satisfaction rating – 2.7 out of 4.
- Changes in the schedules account for possible increases in traffic, population, and ridership.

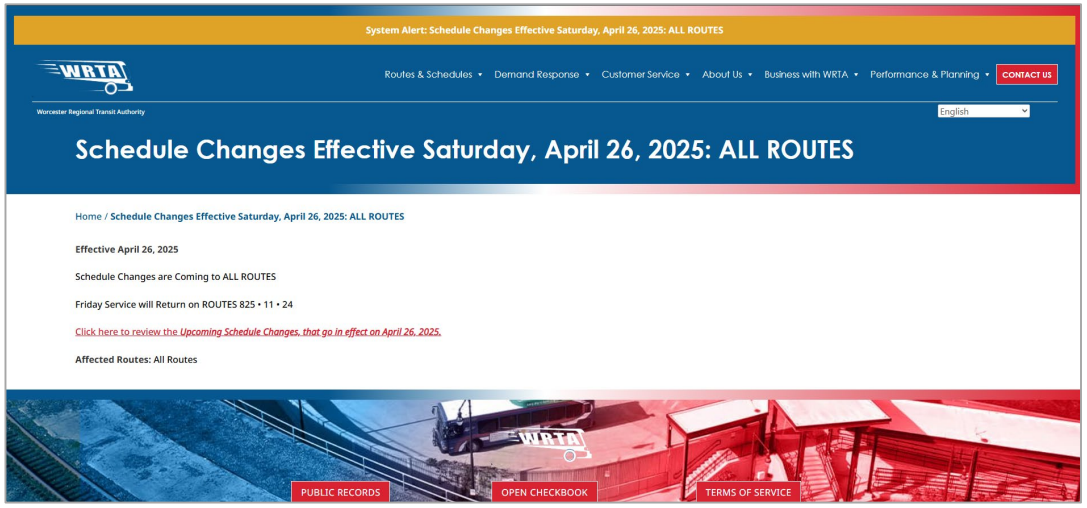
For questions or feedback, please contact us at csfeedback@therta.com

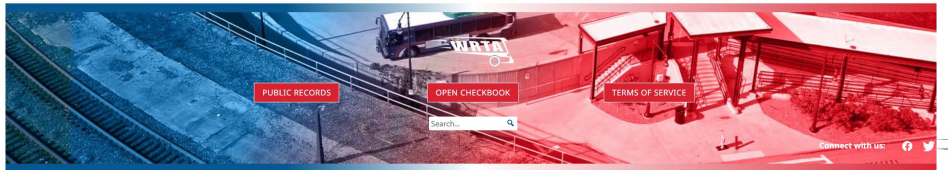
To view current schedules select the button below:

CURRENT SCHEDULES

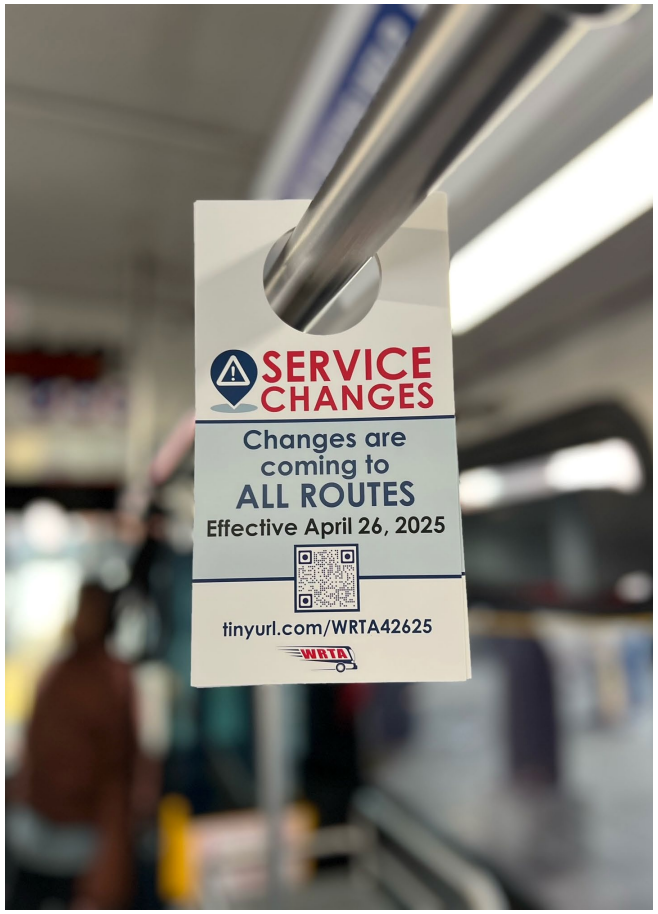
WRTA hosted a series of Public Meetings in January 2025 highlighting these changes. To view the presentation from these meetings, select the button below:

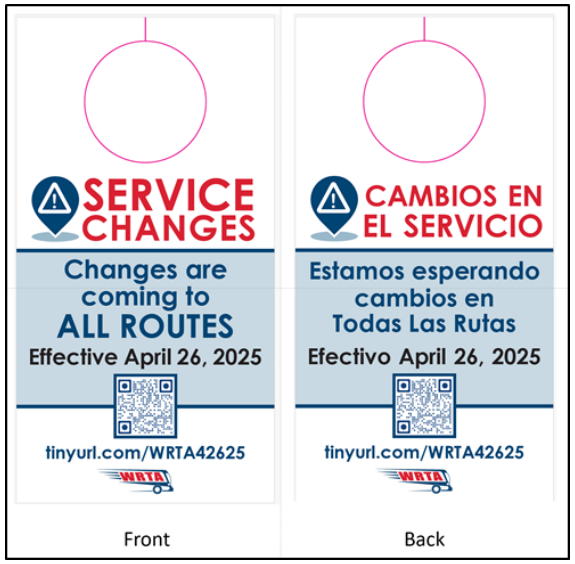
JANUARY 2025 PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION

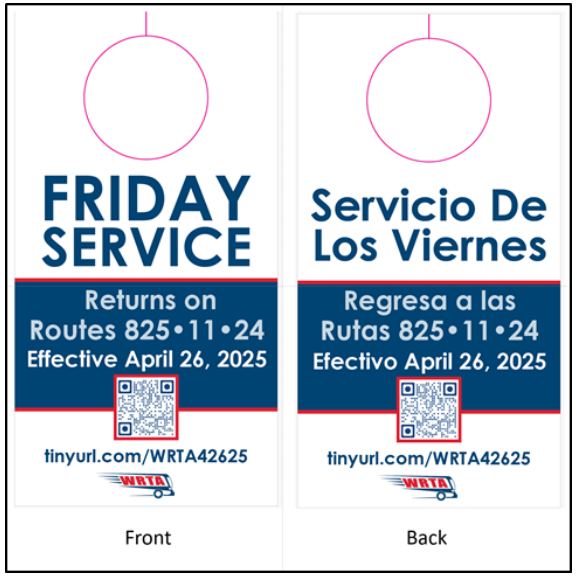




Door Hangers

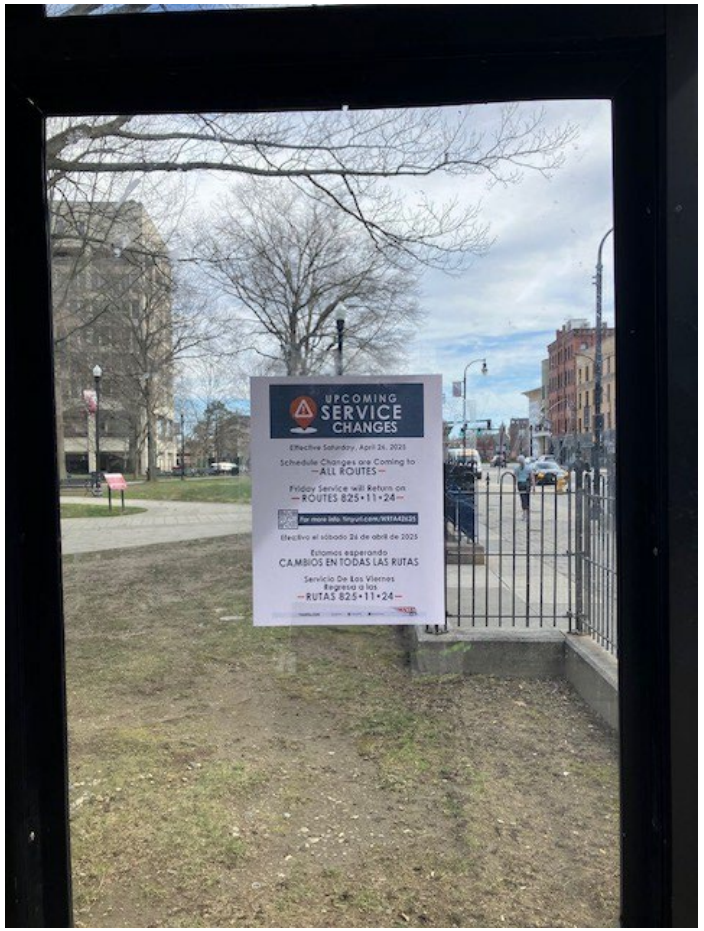


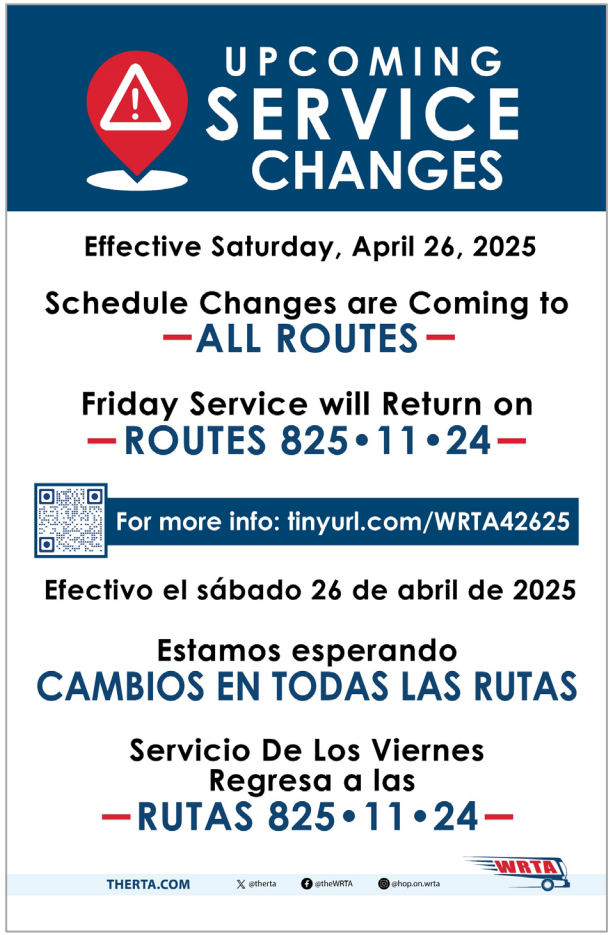




Destination Board Messaging

Shelter Posters



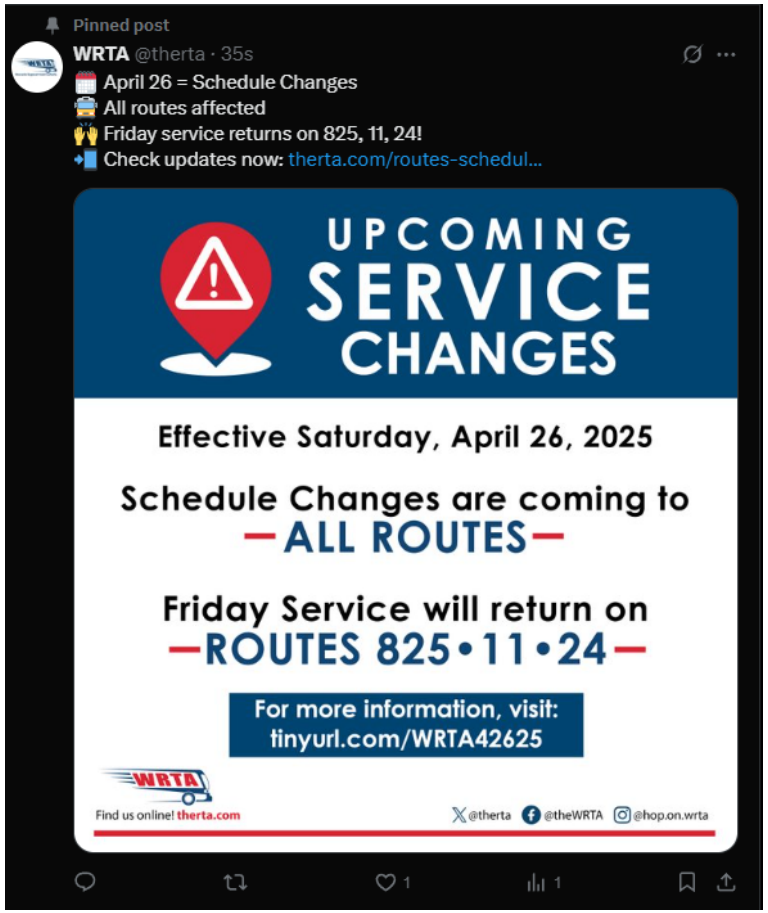


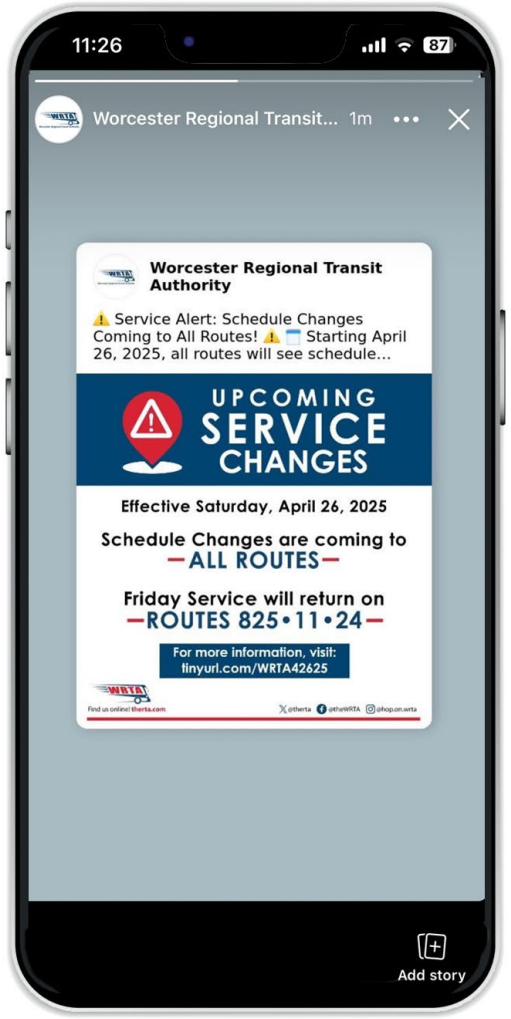
Digital Signage

Community Partner Outreach

- Worcester Senior Center
- Worcester Public Library
- Genesis Club
- YWCA
- QCC

Social Media Campaigns



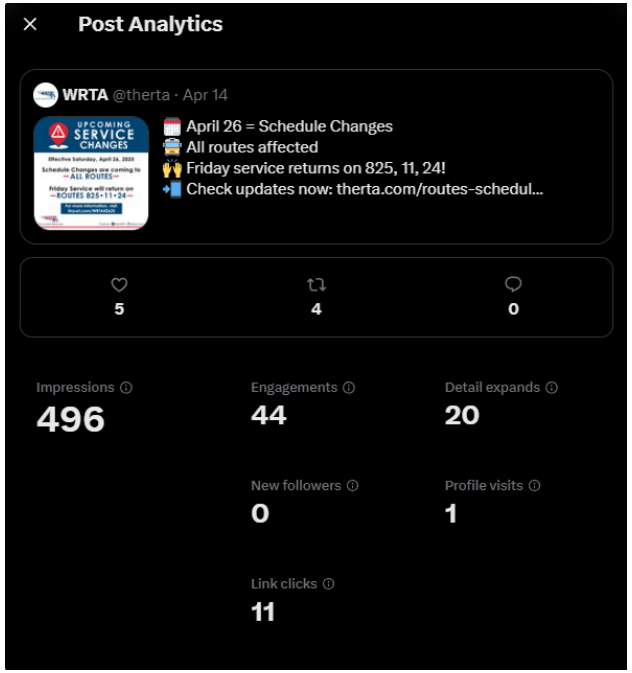
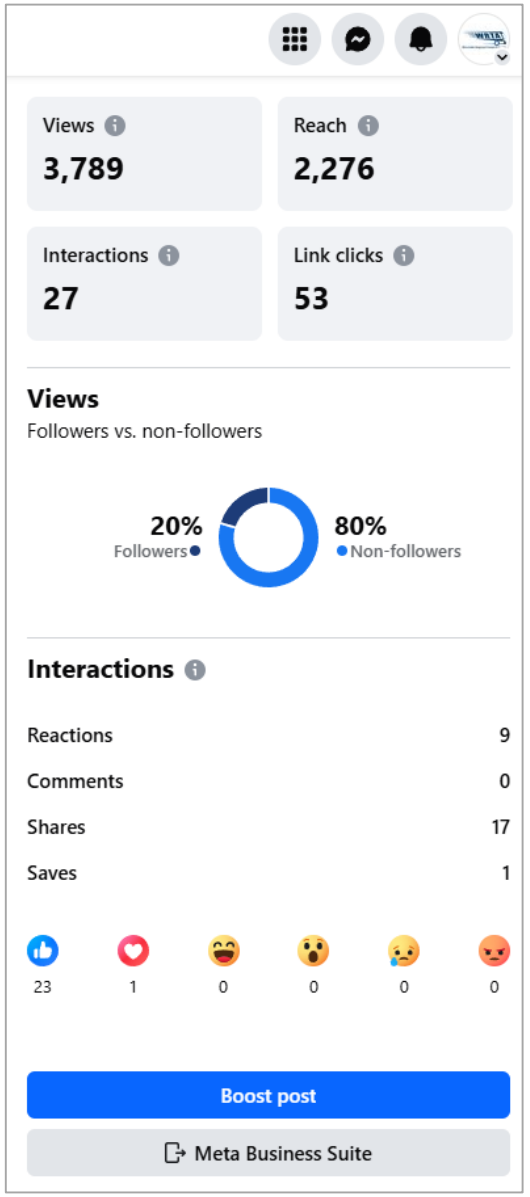


Performance Snapshot*

Website
700+ Page Visits

Facebook
3,789 Views / 17 shares

Twitter / X
496 Views / 4 shares

QR Code
491 Scans

***As of 4/16/25 @ 9:00 pm**