

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

Date: 2/14/2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation requesting authority to accept, execute contracts, and administer the Federal Transit Administration's Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Award

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Approval to accept, execute contracts, and administer Federal Transit Administration's Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Award.

POLICY

Per section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the appropriate county board standing committee prior to applying for discretionary federal or state grants that require a local match.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced on Jan 9, 2023, the opportunity to apply for \$20 million in competitive grants under the FY 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) program. As required by law, funds will be awarded competitively for planning, engineering, or development of technical or financing plans for projects that assist areas of persistent poverty. Grant awards required a 10% local match and applications were due March 10, 2023. In File No. 23-444, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Director's Office staff requested and received retroactive authorization to apply for and accept funding under this program.

The goal of this grant award is to fund a feasibility study of a Shared Bus-Bike Only Lane on 35th Street between National Avenue and Vliet Street in the City of Milwaukee. Traffic calming equipment will be deployed on a temporary basis during two separate periods of study and data, analysis and feedback will be gathered to determine which equipment and setup makes the most sense to prioritize bus, bike and pedestrian safety.

Due to the \$400,000 federal award granted to Milwaukee County for this project last July as shared with the County Board in September (File No. 23-824), MCDOT Director's Office's 2024 operating budget needs to provide a local match of 10%, or

\$40,000. We applied for the local match grant through the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance and our application was approved.

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation is requesting approval of an appropriation transfer to create expenditure authority and recognize revenue from the 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty award for which Milwaukee County will receive \$400,000 from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). The local share (\$40,000) will come from tax levy as indicated by the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Department of Transportation recommends approval to accept, execute contracts, and administer the Federal Transit Administration's Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Award.

FISCAL EFFECT

Execution of this grant with the FTA is contingent upon approval of the attached resolution as well as a 2024 operating budget fund transfer which has also been submitted for consideration. The fund transfer has no financial impact and simply creates expenditure authority for this program in the 2024 Operating Budget for the MCDOT Director's Office where the program oversight and administration will take place.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Jeff Sponcia, Transportation Program Planning Manager, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

Jeff Sponcia, Transportation Program Planning Manager, MCDOT Director's Office

APPROVED BY:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk