

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: February 21, 2020

To: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors

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

Subject: Retroactive Authorization to Apply for Federal Low or No Emission Grant Funds

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 January 17, 2020 the opportunity to apply for \$130 million in competitive grants under the FY 2020 Section 5339(c) Low or No Emission Grant Program. As required by Federal public transportation law, funds will be awarded competitively for the purchase or lease of low or no emission vehicles that use advanced technologies for transit operations, including related equipment or facilities. Projects may include costs incidental to the acquisition of buses or the construction of necessary facilities. Grant awards require a minimum fifteen percent local match and applications were due March 17, 2020.

In FY 2019, the Low-No grant program received applications for 155 projects requesting a total of \$498 million. Only 38 projects were awarded Low-No funding, one being Milwaukee County's \$1.7 million grant for the purchase of four battery electric buses (BEBs). In FY 2020, FTA expects to award grants for 45 projects.

The Department of Transportation intends to apply for \$850,000 in Low-No funds, leveraging local funds previously appropriated in Project WT126 – Battery-Electric Bus Infrastructure. Project WT126 provides infrastructure costs to support the acquisition of BEBs for the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS). The \$850,000 Low-No application will propose to purchase depot and in-route charging stations for BEBs, while providing a 50 percent local matching share currently available in capital project WT126.

RECOMMENDATION

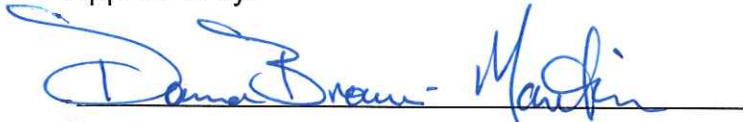
The Director, Department of Transportation requests retroactive authorization to submit a Low-No Emission grant application for \$850,000 in federal funding to aid in the financing of infrastructure costs to support battery electric buses for the Milwaukee County Transit System and to execute any subsequent grant contract.

FISCAL NOTE

Should a Federal Section 5339(c) Low-No grant be awarded, there would be no fiscal impact as local matching funds for BEB infrastructure costs are currently available in Project WT126 – Battery Electric Bus Infrastructure.

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Approved by:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director of Transportation

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