

# Committee on Finance-Budget on 2024-10-11 9:00 AM - HYBRID BUDGET MEETING

This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Time: 10-11-24 09:00

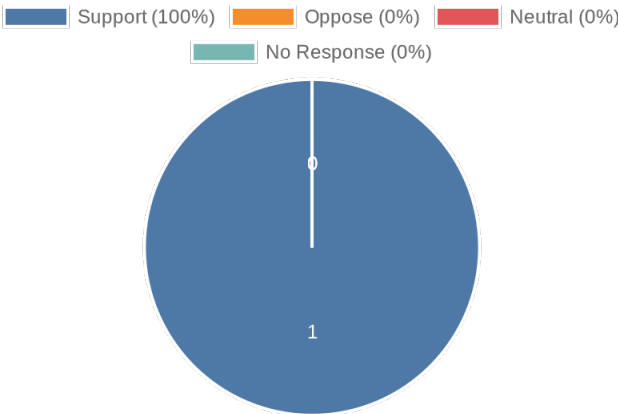
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Committee on Finance-Budget on 2024-10-11 9:00 AM - HYBRID BUDGET MEETING This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: <a href="https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>	10-11-24 09:00	41	1	1	0	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



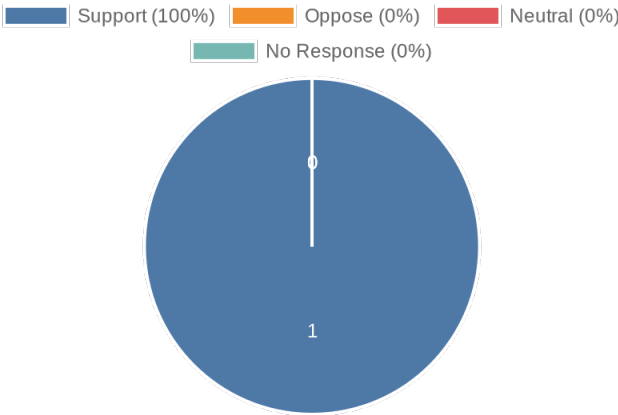
**Committee on Finance-Budget on 2024-10-11 9:00 AM - HYBRID BUDGET MEETING**  
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**10-11-24 09:00**

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
11 24-827A From the Office of the County Executive, providing the 2025 recommended budget.	1	1	0	0

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

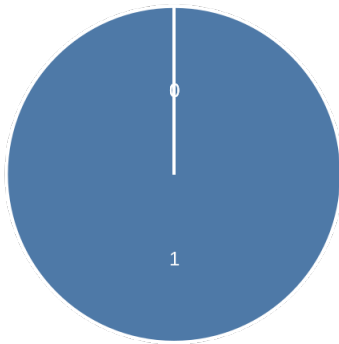
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

**Overall Sentiment**



## Overall Sentiment

Support (100%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)  
No Response (0%)



### Barbara Beckert

Location:

Submitted At: 11:46am 10-11-24

Thank you for your service on the Milwaukee County Board Finance Committee. I am contacting you as a disability advocate (recently retired from Disability Rights Wisconsin) and a member of the Milwaukee County Paratransit Taxi Task Force established by this Board. My comments today are regarding agenda item 11, Org Unit 560, transit/paratransit. I have also emailed these comments and some additional information.

Transit Plus Same Day Service

Please support the Transit Plus Same Day Service Pilot in the 2025 budget.

By way of background, through the leadership of the County Board, funding was provided in the FY 2024 budget to authorize a new Same Day transportation service for people with disabilities. This service replaced the Paratransit Taxi program which had to end as it did not comply with federal requirements for wheelchair accessibility and for drug testing of drivers. The Board resolution also required formation of a Paratransit Taxi Task Force to work with County staff & MCTS to design this program. Task Force members have worked diligently with Director Donna Brown-Martin and with Transit Plus staff to design and launch this service available as of September 2024.

As directed by the County Board, the new same day service provides Transit Plus riders with same day accessible service for medical and/or work-related transportation needs that cannot be scheduled in advance. This service is a high priority for paratransit eligible county residents and ensures residents can access reliable and timely transportation for same day health care and employment related needs. Usage is limited to 8 one way rides a month and to medical and work related rides, due to funding constraints.

I am concerned that the budget does not mention the Transit Plus Same Day Service Pilot or provide any funding. I understand that carry-over funding will provide some support for FY 2025 but it is not adequate for all of FY 2025. I urge continuing funding of this new service for all of FY 2025 to continue both this engagement process via the Task Force & support the new program which has such promise. This engagement between the community served with providers of the service is a model worthy of continuing.

Thank you to the County Board for your past support & leadership in establishing this new service. Please support funding for the Transit Plus Same Day Service in the FY 2025 budget.

A recent story on WUWM's Lake Effect highlights this new service and the collaborative process to develop it:

· WUWM Lake Effect Story about on demand paratransit, October 3, 2024. Features interviews with rider Kevin Meyers and MC DOY Director Donna Brown-Martin On-demand paratransit is back in Milwaukee County, but budget concerns linger

#### Transit Plus Paratransit Van Service Concerns

In the 2024 budget, Milwaukee County made major changes in the Transit Plus Paratransit service, which had long operated with two providers. The County awarded one provider, Transdev, a contract as the sole paratransit provider. The transition to one provider has rough. I have heard from paratransit riders that the van service has not been consistently reliable. Some riders have been left stranded, late to work, missed health care appointments, and had difficulty meeting basic needs such as trips for grocery shopping or to the pharmacy.

What steps can be taken in the budget to improve the reliability of this service and improve accountability? Can the Board authorize further study on how this vital program can be made more reliable with further contingencies to support the needs of paratransit riders? Perhaps ongoing review by providers and community partners would be useful. Could there be further interplay between the paratransit and Same Day initiative?

Thank you for your dedicated service and your consideration of these recommendations. Please contact me with any questions.

Barbara Beckert

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