

**County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication**

Date: August 24, 2020

To: Comptroller Scott Manske, Chair
Capital Improvements Committee

From: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Dan Boehm, Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System

Subject: Recommendation for Funding Continuation of the Bus Replacement Program in 2021

REQUEST

The Department of Transportation (Department) is requesting replacement bus funding for the Milwaukee County Transit System (Transit) in 2021. The Department's Capital Improvements Requested Budget (Budget) for 2021 includes facility-related projects due to Transit facilities being past their useful lives and in need of structural and mechanical repairs. However, in order to maintain a financially manageable bus replacement program, Transit should budget for the purchase of 30 buses in 2021. Some of the buses to be replaced were purchased in 2010 when Milwaukee County was awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. ARRA funds were used to purchase 45 buses in addition to 55 buses that were purchased that same year with non-ARRA funding.

Consistent with Milwaukee County policy, Transit has initiated a Battery Electric Bus (BEB) pilot program. Transit has distributed a Request for Proposal for 15 BEBs of which eleven will be deployed on the East-West Bus Rapid Transit line and four on other routes, to be determined. As impacts of BEB deployment are not yet known, as such it is recommended that low-emission clean diesel replacement buses be purchased while the pilot program is underway. The table below illustrates the number of vehicles that may be purchased based on potential costs for clean diesel, hybrid electric and BEBs, and as may be directed by the County Executive and County Board.

	Clean Diesel	Hybrid Electric	BEB
Cost per Unit (approx.)	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000
# of Units	30	20	15
Total Cost	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000

Prepared by: Julie Esch, Deputy Director

Approved by:

Julie Esch, Deputy

Donna Brown-Martin, Director