

## **County of Milwaukee**

### **Interoffice Communication**

**DATE:** 2/19/2021  
**TO:** Marcelia Nicholson, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
**SUBJECT:** Authorization and funding of MCTS CAD/AVL Capital Project WT143

#### BACKGROUND

The current Computer Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) system used by the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) has exceeded its end of life (EOL) as well as end of software support (EOS). Maintaining cybersecurity protection is a major concern and priority for MCTS, and replacement of the CAD/AVL system will mitigate future risk.

In addition to cybersecurity threats, operating an old CAD/AVL system also presents risks for system reliability and operational continuity. The Vehicle Logic Unit (VLU) on each bus is about 25 years old and there is no longer a primary or secondary market in which to purchase replacements when they fail. We are currently operating on spares resulting from fleet reductions over the years. Furthermore, the corresponding servers, workstations, and network equipment used to operate these systems are EOL and EOS. These systems must remain on old, outdated equipment and operating systems as long as the current CAD/AVL system is in place. Loss of CAD/AVL hardware used to operate the system could result in an inability to communicate with buses, locate buses, and provide the stop and route information that our passengers rely on.

Replacement of this system was requested in the 2021 capital budget, but cash funded capital needs elsewhere in the County received higher priority. Therefore, MCDOT is recommending the use of the Federal Transit Administration's Urbanized Area Federal Funding Program (e.g. 5307 grant) for this project in order to mitigate risk and provide for an assurance of continuity of operation for MCTS and its passengers.

We are requesting the creation and funding of a capital project to replace the CAD/AVL system. This will allow us to proceed with selection of a vendor through a request for proposal (RFP), followed by implementation as soon as possible. The estimated project cost of \$6.25 million can be funded with \$5,000,000 (80%) in federal section 5307 funding, with the remaining \$1,250,000 (20%) covered by passenger revenue, tax levy or Vehicle Registration Fee funds.

#### FISCAL EFFECT

The 2020 Federal Section 5307 award includes \$5 million in funding for the CAD/AVL replacement, which is 80% of the estimated total cost. The remaining \$1.25 million will consist of local funds from tax levy. No additional local funds beyond what is already

authorized in the 2021 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget are being requested to fund this project.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation requests the authorization and funding of capital project WT143 CAD/AVL System and Radio System Replacement (Buses), and that the Department of Administrative Services and the Office of the Comptroller be authorized to process an administrative fund transfer to recognize \$5 million in federal revenue, shift \$1.25 million from Transit operating levy, and provide expenditure authority of \$6.25 million for the project. The reduction in Transit operating levy will be offset with CARES revenue.

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

*Julie Esch, Deputy Director*

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Donna Brown-Martin  
Director, Department of Transportation