

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 4, 2012

TO: Chairman, Economic and Community Development Committee
Chairman, Transportation Public Works & Transit Committee

FROM: Frank Busalacchi, Director, Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: 2012 State of Good Repair Grant Request

POLICY

This report is informational.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5309 State of Good Repair Grant program was initiated in 2010 to support transit systems' need for improving aging bus and bus related facilities. Milwaukee County has applied for, and received, grant funds in 2010 and 2011 for buses and facility repairs. For the past two years, this competitive grant program was made available in July with grant award notifications posting in October. This year, while originally scheduled to take place in July, notice was given in February that the grant application time deadline was moved up to March 22. Subsequent to this change, the Department of Transportation in cooperation with the transit system submitted an application for the 2012 State of Good Repair program that requests \$6,640,000 in federal funds for 20 buses and \$3,240,000 in federal funds for a variety of facility based repairs. The County match required for these two projects would be \$1,360,000 and \$810,000 respectively.

County Ordinance 56.06(1) requires approval of grant funds by the County Board if prior approved has not been granted in the budget. There has been several times when grant opportunities become available with a deadline that is outside of the County approval process. In these instances, the department has made application for grant funding and requested that the County Board approve the receipt of funds when the award notification is made. For this grant request, grant proceeds will offset 80% of facility-based projects and 83% of future vehicle purchases. In January of 2012, the Department presented a report to the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee identifying the fact that future bus replacement needs will extend to the year 2018. Without grant funding, Milwaukee County would be responsible for 100% of the infrastructure and vehicle replacement costs.

While we are hopeful for the grant proceeds, this is a competitive grant process and there has been some indication by the FTA that grant awards will be moving from bus based projects to rail and bus rapid transit projects in this round of funding. In addition, while we have made a request for a total of \$9,880,000 in federal funds, it is possible that we are not awarded the full amount. Once the final award is made, the department will return to the board with a resolution for approval to receive grant funding for whatever the grant award amount is. It is anticipated that the award notification will be made available during the summer of 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information purposes.

Report Prepared by: Brian Dranzik, Director of Administration - DOT

Approved by:

Frank Busalacchi, Director
Department of Transportation

Cc: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
Supervisor, , Chairperson, County Board of Supervisors
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