

Committee on Finance-Budget on 2025-10-13 9:00 AM - 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: 10-13-25 09:00

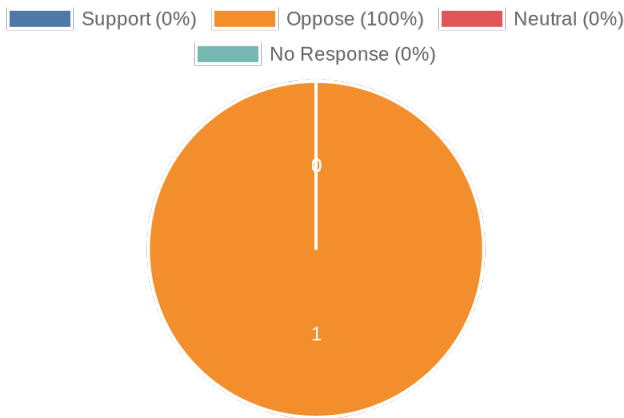
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Committee on Finance-Budget on 2025-10-13 9:00 AM - 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	10-13-25 09:00	40	1	0	1	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



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10-13-25 09:00

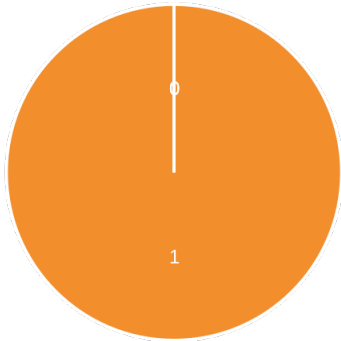
Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
10 25-668A From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.	1	0	1	0

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.

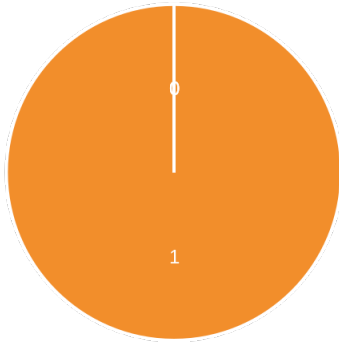
Overall Sentiment

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



Overall Sentiment

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



thomas stawicki

Location:

Submitted At: 2:12pm 10-12-25

Good morning Mr. Chairman and committee members. My name is Tom Stawicki and I am the Legislative Director and lobbyist for ATU998.

I would like to start out by thanking each of you for making many bold decisions over the years that kept public transportation in Milwaukee County moving forward.

However, recent reports of up to a \$10 million dollar deficit within the system causing a potential 15 percent reduction of service would cause huge obstacles for many of our most financially disadvantaged riders.

In the County Executive's 2026 Proposed Budget, he outlines HIS recommendations, which include the elimination of six routes, the modification of at least five more which include frequency of service reductions and hours of operation, and a fare increase of adult fare from \$2 to \$2.75.

At this point you must ask yourselves, "Are these cost saving measures going to help MCTS out of it's financial hole, or are these measures going to further it's demise"? We believe the latter.

ATU998 understands the importance of streamlining the system going forward that would not only implement cost saving strategies but would also find ways to increase ridership through expansion, but the County Executive's proposals go too far.

Where most transit agencies across the Country are finding creative and innovative ways to expand their reach to increase ridership,, Milwaukee County seems to be moving backwards. Is this what you want for your constituents?

We believe absolutely not!

Before routes are completely eliminated, you should explore the option of limited service, focused on rush hours. You could explore a slight reduction of service on some weekend routes. You could explore the possibility of fare free days where riders could ride for free a few days a year to introduce them to riding public transportation.

Elimination of routes and the cutting of service is only going to reduce ridership and we will all be back here next year at this time facing the same problem.

ATU998 also believes that the Vehicle Registration Fee, or "Wheel Tax" should be used for what it was intended to be used for, ADDITIONAL transit funding. Under former County Executive Chris Abele, this was how the VRF was framed. However, this was clearly just a way to create another fee that was paid off of the backs of vehicle

owners to supplement the tax base. Fifteen million dollars in Vehicle Registration Fees to MCTS, and fifteen million dollars less in tax money for MCTS. It was a wash and no additional funding to MCTS.

This should be a time for growth, not cuts, and this should not be a time where the riding public is penalized for the actions of past MCTS administration.

ATU998 will continue to meet with legislators, at both the County and State level, to hopefully find creative ways to fund public transportation not only in Milwaukee County, but across the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time.

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