

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: April 29, 2015

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair, County Board of Supervisors
Michael Mayo Sr., Chair, Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee,
County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Brian Dranzik, Director, Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to enter Contract No. 02 with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) for transit services as part of the Zoo Interchange Project.

POLICY

Contracts with a value over \$300,000 require County Board Approval. Proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to transit routes and services are also subject to Board approval.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin and Midwest Environmental Advocates filed a lawsuit against federal transportation agencies and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) on behalf of Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope and the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin for inadequately addressing needs of persons who rely on transit within the scope of the \$1.7 billion Zoo Interchange Project.

In 2014, a settlement between WisDOT and the plaintiffs specified that \$2.875 million annually would be available for eligible transit services from July 2014 to September 2018. Accordingly, Contract No. 01 between WisDOT and MCDOT was executed on June 20, 2014, providing the funding for transit services and \$500,000 for marketing. Under Contract No. 01, three bus routes were started:

- Route 6 – New Berlin Industrial Park Express (started August 24, 2014)
- Route 279 – Menomonee Falls Industrial Park Express (started August 24, 2014)
- Route 61 – Appleton-Keefe (started January 18, 2015)

Contract No. 01 covered a term of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Given the August 2014 and January 2015 start dates, only about \$2 million of the funds made available under this contract were scheduled to be spent before contract expiration. In early 2015, WisDOT indicated that it would not permit any unspent funds to be rolled forward into subsequent years, which would have resulted in at least \$660,000 from Contract No. 01 being withheld during the life of

the Zoo Interchange Reconstruction Project. On April 21, 2015, WisDOT changed course regarding unspent funds on an annual basis and agreed to carryover funds from a previous year.

Under Contract No. 02 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), MCTS plans to continue to operate Routes 6, 61 and 279, but some reductions in service are necessary. Each of these routes is performing below the system-wide average for route productivity of 30 passengers per bus hour (PBH), as shown in the following table:

Ridership Analysis Table			
Route	Average Rides/Day	Average Hours/Day	PBH
6	276	20	13.8
279	85	23	3.7
61	455	83	5.5

Ridership and productivity (measured in terms of PBH) for Routes 6 and 279 reflect seven months of service, whereas the information above for Route 61 is based on three months. The changes described below will help to increase productivity of Routes 279 and 61, while also ensuring that route expenses do not exceed contract revenues:

- Route 279 will be shortened in length to eliminate a lightly utilized segment (see attached map). Saturday service will also be discontinued. Weekday arrival and departure times in the Menomonee Falls Industrial park will continue to be served. Beginning June 14, 2015, passengers who rode the lightly used segment will still be able to access Route 279 by using the BlueLine.
- Route 61 will be operated with fewer bus hours on weekdays and Sundays, effective June 14, 2015. The frequency of service will be minimally affected because the round-trip running time has proven to be shorter than initially estimated. The route will continue to serve all existing bus stops and destinations including those in the Germantown industrial park.

The Plaintiffs are aware of and have agreed to the service changes described above.

RECOMMENDATION

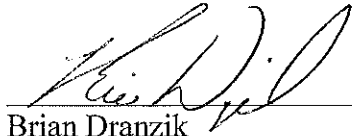
MCTS recommends approval of the attached resolution authorizing MCDOT to enter into Contract No. 02 with WisDOT for \$3,375,000. The resolution also authorizes modification to transit Routes 279 and 61, as necessary to ensure that expenditures do not exceed contract revenues.

FISCAL NOTE

Costs of transit services will not exceed contract revenues available from WisDOT.

Prepared by: Dan Boehm, Managing Director, MCTS

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Dranzik", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian Dranzik
Director, Department of Transportation

Attachment

cc: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele
Josh Fudge, Fiscal and Budget Administrator, Department of Administrative Services
Anthony Geiger, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, Department of Administrative Services