

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: 3/9/2017
TO: Theodore Lispcomb, Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors
Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairperson, Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee
FROM: Brian Dranzik, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Informational update regarding the east-west corridor Bus Rapid Transit project.

BACKGROUND

In 2016 a feasibility study was done to evaluate the potential for bus rapid transit (BRT) in the east-west corridor. As a part of that study a locally preferred alternative route was selected and a request to enter the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Small Starts funding program was submitted.

Last year, the County Board approved funding for continued work on the East-West Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. In September of 2016, Milwaukee County officially received approval from the FTA to enter into the Project Development phase, meaning engineering, design and environmental study work could begin. Soon thereafter, the Department of Transportation transitioned the responsibility for continued development of the BRT project over to the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS). In turn, MCTS identified a Project Manager and Deputy Project Manager, and selected two consulting firms to assist in the Project Development phase:

- AECOM/HNTB (Engineering and Design of stations, shelters, right-of-way, etc.), and
- SRF (Environmental Assessment).

2017 Timeline

In 1st Quarter 2017, consultants focused on data collection and traffic analysis to begin to determine how BRT will fit into existing and future traffic along the route. The environmental review process also began. In addition, MCTS staff and consultants hosted a visit by the FTA to review the alignment. Furthermore, meetings with various stakeholders, elected officials and neighborhood groups have been held to update them on the timeline for engineering, design and environmental work, as well as to gather input, flag any concerns, and build support for the project.

In 2nd Quarter 2017, two public meetings and smaller BRT station workshops will be held to get input on the design and location of BRT stations. County Board Supervisors will be invited to participate in the public meetings, which are scheduled for May 17, 2017 at Marquette University, and May 18, 2017 at the Zoofari Conference Center.

In 3rd Quarter 2017, environmental analysis will continue and the consultants will begin the process of revising the design as necessary in response to feedback obtained at public meetings and with various stakeholders. A Small Starts application update is due to the FTA in September 2017.

In 4th Quarter 2017, the environmental assessment findings will be shared publicly and with stakeholders. It is also expected that a refined design will be made available to the public at this time too.

2018 -- In early 2018, the environmental assessment process will be completed and we will seek a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which will position us to finish the design to a 90% stage. After an FTA capital investment grant is awarded, the vehicle procurement process will begin and construction contracts can be let.

2019 -- Begin the construction and build-out phases.

2020 to 2021 -- Perform startup/testing and begin operations.

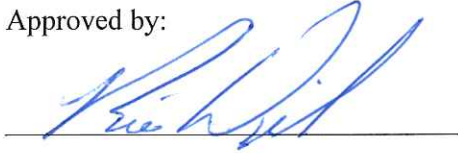
RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed. A fact sheet has been attached with related information about the BRT project.

Prepared by:

Dan Boehm, Managing Director, MCTS

Approved by:



Brian Dranzik
Director, Department of Transportation

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Steve Kreklow, Budget Director, DAS - PSB
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller
Jonathan Schatz, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, DAS-PSB