

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

Date: 4/19/2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Donna Martin-Brown, Director, Department of Transportation

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation and from the President and Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS), requesting approval for an update of the MCTS Agency Safety Plan (ASP).

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Per the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) updates, must be approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

POLICY

On July 19, 2018, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Rule requiring large public transportation systems to develop a plan that includes processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (SMS).

BACKGROUND

SMS is a formal, organization-wide approach to managing safety risks and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk mitigation activities. Implementing the PTASP will enable MCTS to proactively address organizational problems that lead to safety hazards, identify system-wide trends in safety and manage emerging hazards before they result in incidents or accidents. The MCTS Agency Safety Plan addresses FTA requirements for key elements such as:

- Safety performance targets
- Safety policies, procedures, and accountabilities
- Safety risk management strategies and safety assurance procedures
- Safety promotion and training and communication efforts aimed to inform employees about how to identify and report safety concerns

Overall, the safety plan formalizes and elevates MCTS's commitment to building a strong safety culture across the organization. The Agency Safety Plan is available for review online at www.ridemcts.com/agencysafetyplan

The most recent version of the ASP was approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in December 2023. File #:23-993.

On March 1st 2024 the Milwaukee County Transit System Safety Assurance Committee (SAC), which includes an equal number of MCTS Management and ATU-998 representatives, agreed unanimously on the following amendments to the ASP:

- Responsibilities of the Chief Operations/Chief Safety Officer
- Membership of the Safety Assurance Committee
- Direct notifications of reported safety hazards
- Updates to position titles and organizational charts

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.

3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Transportation Agencies must obtain approval for all updates and modifications of their agency safety plan by the governing Board, in this case, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The Director, Department of Transportation recommends adoption of the Agency Safety Plan updates.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal impact to approve updates to the MCTS Agency Safety Plan. Operating costs related to safety management are already a part of annual budget as approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The Plan will be implemented and managed with existing staff time.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

Denise Wandke, Managing Director, MCTS DWandke@mcts.org

Dan Basile, Chief Operating Officer, MCTS DBasile@mcts.org

Brittany Bertsch, Director of Safety, Security & Project Management, MCTS
bbertsch@mcts.org

Sawyer Schmitt, Manager of Safety and Security, MCTS sschmitt@mcts.org

PREPARED BY:

Brittany Bertsch, Director of Safety, Security and Project Management, MCTS

APPROVED BY:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note
- MCTS Agency Safety Plan 2024_v2

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk