

MILWAUKEE COUNTY FISCAL NOTE FORM

DATE: July 2, 2025

Original Fiscal Note ☒

Substitute Fiscal Note ☐

SUBJECT: A resolution requesting the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to develop a data-informed bus fare compliance strategy to strengthen revenue and ensure long-term sustainability

FISCAL EFFECT:

- ☒ No Direct County Fiscal Impact ☐ Increase Capital Expenditures
- ☒ Existing Staff Time Required ☐ Decrease Capital Expenditures
- ☐ Increase Operating Expenditures (If checked, check one of two boxes below) ☐ Increase Capital Revenues
- ☐ Absorbed Within Agency's Budget ☐ Decrease Capital Revenues
- ☐ Not Absorbed Within Agency's Budget
- ☐ Decrease Operating Expenditures ☐ Use of contingent funds
- ☐ Increase Operating Revenues
- ☐ Decrease Operating Revenues

Indicate below the dollar change from budget for any submission that is projected to result in increased/decreased expenditures or revenues in the current year.

	Expenditure or Revenue Category	Current Year	Subsequent Year
Operating Budget	Expenditure	\$0	\$0
	Revenue	\$0	\$0
	Net Cost	\$0	\$0
Capital Improvement Budget	Expenditure	\$0	\$0
	Revenue	\$0	\$0
	Net Cost	\$0	\$0

DESCRIPTION OF FISCAL EFFECT

In the space below, you must provide the following information. Attach additional pages if necessary.

- A. Briefly describe the nature of the action that is being requested or proposed, and the new or changed conditions that would occur if the request or proposal were adopted.
 - B. State the direct costs, savings or anticipated revenues associated with the requested or proposed action in the current budget year and how those were calculated.¹ If annualized or subsequent year fiscal impacts are substantially different from current year impacts, then those shall be stated as well. In addition, cite any one-time costs associated with the action, the source of any new or additional revenues (e.g. State, Federal, user fee or private donation), the use of contingent funds, and/or the use of budgeted appropriations due to surpluses or change in purpose required to fund the requested action.
 - C. Discuss the budgetary impacts associated with the proposed action in the current year. A statement that sufficient funds are budgeted should be justified with information regarding the amount of budgeted appropriations in the relevant account and whether that amount is sufficient to offset the cost of the requested action. If relevant, discussion of budgetary impacts in subsequent years also shall be discussed. Subsequent year fiscal impacts shall be noted for the entire period in which the requested or proposed action would be implemented when it is reasonable to do so (i.e. a five-year lease agreement shall specify the costs/savings for each of the five years in question). Otherwise, impacts associated with the existing and subsequent budget years should be cited.
 - D. Describe any assumptions or interpretations that were utilized to provide the information on this form.
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- A. Approval of this resolution requests MCTS to provide strategic and data-driven recommendations to reduce bus fare evasion without creating a safety issue for operators or other passengers that could be considered for funding as part of the 2026 Budget. The resolution also requests MCTS develop and submit a data-informed, rider- and operator-safe security and fare compliance strategy for the CONNECT 1 route that implements a more rigorous fare enforcement strategy for the CONNECT 1 route that achieves fare compliance rates on par with other MCTS routes and/or recommends discontinuing the pre-board payment system on the CONNECT 1 route and transitions to requiring fare payment upon entry to the bus. This report is requested to be submitted to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors no later than the September 2025 meeting cycle.
 - B. There are no direct costs associated with this resolution.
 - C. This resolution asks MCTS for recommendations that could be considered for funding as part of the 2026 Budget to reduce bus fare evasion without creating a safety issue for operators or other passengers; however, there is no direct budgetary impact of the resolution itself. This resolution does not obligate funds in 2025 or 2026.
 - D. No assumptions or interpretations were made.

¹ If it is assumed that there is no fiscal impact associated with the requested action, then an explanatory statement that justifies that conclusion shall be provided. If precise impacts cannot be calculated, then an estimate or range should be provided.

² Community Business Development Partners' review is required on all professional service and public work construction contracts.

Department/Prepared By Brady Coulthard, Research and Policy Analyst,
Office of the Comptroller

Authorized Signature 

Did DAS-Fiscal Staff Review?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Did CBDP Review? ²	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required