

1 By Supervisors Nicholson, Rolland, Gómez-Tom, Shea, Eckblad, File No. 25-687  
2 Vincent, Martin, Taylor (Dist. 5), Taylor (Dist. 17), Martinez, Logsdon,  
3 O'Connor, Capriolo, and Coggs-Jones  
4

5 **A RESOLUTION**  
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7 Requesting the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and the Milwaukee  
8 County Transit System to Develop a Plan to Maximize 2026 Transit and Paratransit  
9 Service Levels and Minimize Community Disruption  
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11  
12 WHEREAS, a robust public transit system is essential to the citizens of  
13 Milwaukee County because it connects residents to jobs, education, healthcare, and  
14 community resources, supports economic growth, reduces traffic congestion and  
15 negative environmental impacts, and ensures equitable access to opportunity for all;  
16 and  
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18 WHEREAS, due primarily to the expiration of federal pandemic relief funding, the  
19 2026 Recommended Budget proposes to eliminate, modify, or reduce several  
20 Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) fixed routes and to discontinue the same-  
21 day paratransit service; and  
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23 WHEREAS, during the 2026 budget hearings, riders, bus operators,  
24 representatives of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), school board members, and  
25 disability rights advocates provided valuable input and creative ideas to minimize  
26 disruption and maintain essential transit access; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, members of the public have expressed strong support for preserving  
29 all existing transit routes, including those that serve students traveling to and from  
30 school, connect senior residents to key destinations such as the Marcia P. Coggs  
31 Center and the Washington Park Senior Center, and provide access to Beyond Vision  
32 and other area employers; and  
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34 WHEREAS, while the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) has determined  
35 that its recent same-day paratransit ride program is financially unsustainable, there  
36 remains a demonstrated community need for limited critical same-day paratransit  
37 services, and it is appropriate for MCTS to explore options to provide such critical rides  
38 within the scope and resources of the existing paratransit program; and  
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40 WHEREAS, strategies to maximize service levels and minimize disruption could  
41 include, but are not limited to:  
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- 43 • Implementing tripper service, or limited, peak-hour bus trips that operate
- 44 during morning and afternoon rush hours to maintain essential coverage
- 45 when ridership demand is highest;
- 46 • Leveraging savings realized through the Waukesha Metro contract;
- 47 • Establishing public-private partnerships with employers, nonprofit
- 48 organizations, and other stakeholders;
- 49 • Collaborating with school districts, including Milwaukee Public Schools, to
- 50 support student transportation needs with existing routes;
- 51 • Taking active measures to reduce fare evasion; and
- 52 • Exploring limited critical same-day paratransit service within the existing
- 53 paratransit program

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55 ; and

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57 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance-Budget, at its meeting of October 31,  
58 2025, recommended adoption of File No. 25-687 (vote 6-0); now, therefore,

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60 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors requests that the  
61 Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and the Milwaukee County  
62 Transit System (MCTS) identify and pursue additional strategies and partnerships to  
63 preserve, to the greatest extent practicable, both paratransit and fixed-route transit  
64 services within the appropriations provided in the 2026 Adopted Budget; and

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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that recognizing public transit as an essential  
67 service that connects Milwaukee residents to jobs, education, healthcare, and  
68 community resources, MCDOT and MCTS shall report to the County Board of  
69 Supervisors during the December 2025 meeting cycle with findings and  
70 recommendations outlining how the appropriations in the 2026 Adopted Budget will be  
71 used to maximize fixed-route transit and paratransit service levels while minimizing  
72 disruption to the community; and

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74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any funds appropriated to an allocated  
75 contingency account within the 2026 Adopted Budget for the Milwaukee County Transit  
76 System, for purposes of transit or paratransit service restoration, shall not be expended  
77 without prior approval of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

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