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A resolution by Supervisor Lipscomb, Sr., affirming Milwaukee County’s commitment to dedicated bus service from Milwaukee and Racine to the Foxconn Technology Group complex in Mount Pleasant, to connect workers to jobs, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the soon-to-be-built Foxconn Technology Group (Foxconn) complex in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, is a \$10 billion, 22-million-square-foot manufacturing complex that is anticipated to employ up to 13,000 people; and

WHEREAS, several state and local leaders have made it a top priority to connect workers in Milwaukee and Racine counties to available jobs at Foxconn; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County), and particularly, the Milwaukee County Transit System can play an important role in addressing the “jobs gap” problem – the challenge of connecting workers to jobs, especially workers without their own vehicle, a problem which confronts the County and southeastern Wisconsin as a whole; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2018, the Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board), proposed the creation of new bus service from Milwaukee and Racine to Foxconn through a partnership between the County, Racine County, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC); and

WHEREAS, this new bus service could be jointly financed using resources that recently became available due to the sale of Midwest assets; and

WHEREAS, the County, Racine County, and the State Department of Commerce (the precursor of WEDC) collaborated to support Midwest Airlines in 2003, and the County recently completed the sale of Midwest assets, making \$4.5 million available after creditors and expenses are paid; and

WHEREAS, the County, Racine County, and the State of Wisconsin (the State) can pool funds available from the sale of Midwest assets to finance a dedicated bus service to Foxconn; and

WHEREAS, initiating bus service to Foxconn is a viable option that comes without the burden of new taxes, and it could potentially jumpstart cooperation on regional transportation, which has historically been a divisive issue; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission conducted an analysis of the proposed bus service, and found that 1,300 workers could take advantage of the service each day; and

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WHEREAS, connecting more than 1,300 workers to jobs each day is one way the County, Racine County, and the State can work together to address the “jobs gap” problem in the region; and

WHEREAS, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported that at a civic meeting in Milwaukee on June 11, 2018, Alan Yeung, the Director of United States Strategic Initiatives for Foxconn, indicated Foxconn will play a role in exploring transit options to help Milwaukee residents get to the thousands of jobs to be created in Racine County, and said:

“We do have responsibility to tackle those issues. We don’t have the answers. I think we are looking forward to solving those problems collectively and collaboratively.”

; and

WHEREAS, this kind of regional cooperation could also inspire greater intergovernmental collaboration and innovation as we seek ways to help workers access jobs and confront transportation challenges in southeastern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its meeting of July 11, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-537 (vote *-*); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) affirms its desire for dedicated bus service from Milwaukee County (the County) and Racine County to the Foxconn Technology Group (Foxconn) complex in Mount Pleasant, to connect workers to jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board requests and authorizes that the County’s Department of Transportation, the County’s Transit System, and other County entities initiate discussion with Racine County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and other interested parties, such as FoxConn, toward an agreement to provide the proposed bus service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk is authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this request to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee County Delegation to the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Racine County Executive, and the Racine County Board.