

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: February 21, 2020
TO: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Milwaukee County's Expected Grants for the Milwaukee County Transit System in 2020 – INFORMATIONAL REPORT

POLICY

The Chairman of the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee has requested a summary of grants the Department of Transportation expects to receive in support of the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) in 2020.

BACKGROUND

Transit grants received from the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are administered for Milwaukee County by the Department of Transportation (MCDOT), Director's Office. MCDOT expects to receive - and has included in the MCTS adopted operating budget - the following WisDOT grants in 2020:

	<u>Budgeted Amt. in 2020</u>
• Urban Mass Transit Operating Assistance (Section 85.20)	\$65,477,800
• Urban Mass Transit Operating Assistance – Paratransit Supplemental Aid (Section 85.205)	\$1,400,000
• Specialized Transportation Assistance (Section 85.21)	\$1,522,288

In addition, the State Department of Administration recently announced an opportunity to apply for up to \$20 million under the Transit Capital Assistance Grant Program. This grant could be used for the replacement of MCTS buses purchased before 2010. MCDOT and the Department of Administrative Services have prepared a separate informational committee report on this 2020 competitive grant opportunity.

Transit grants received from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are also administered for Milwaukee County through the Department of Transportation, Director's Office. MCDOT expects to receive - and has included in the MCTS adopted operating budget - the following FTA grants in 2020:

	<u>Budgeted Amt. in 2020</u>
• Urbanized Area Formula (Section 5307)	\$22,150,000
• Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310)	\$212,479
• Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ - Previously awarded and budgeted in 2020)	\$2,390,606

Under the current federal transportation bill, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the FTA also awards capital grants on a formula basis. Milwaukee County will receive a yet-to-be-determined amount in 2020 for capital assistance that can be used for buses and bus facilities under the Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program. Based on previous award amounts, MCDOT expects to receive approximately \$3.6 million in Section 5339 funds in 2020. It should be noted that FFY 2020 is the final year of the FAST Act.

In addition to the grants listed above, MCDOT will apply for discretionary grants under the Section 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program and Section 5339(c) Low or No Emission Vehicle Program. These grant programs are highly competitive on a nationwide basis and potential grant awards are not budgeted.

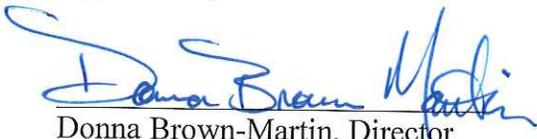
Should other discretionary grant opportunities become available for transit, DOT will provide a report to the County Board seeking authorization to file an application in accordance with Section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County Code of Ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is informational only.

Prepared by: Steve Nigh, Sr. Mgr. Grants Development, MCDOT

Approved by:


 Donna Brown-Martin, Director
 Department of Transportation

cc: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
 Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive
 Chris Abele
 Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller
 Joe Lamers, Director, DAS-PSB