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(ITEM ) From the Director, Department of Transportation, requesting authorization to submit a Federal Grant Application and execute the subsequent contract to support the Milwaukee County Transit System Bus Replacement Program, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2014, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of grant funding under the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the FTA has made available approximately \$100 million from recoveries from the Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Program authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59, and prior authorizations; and

WHEREAS, the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative makes funds available to public transportation providers to finance capital projects; and to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment; and

WHEREAS, the FTA will evaluate each project to determine how it supports five Ladders of Opportunity Initiative principles; and

WHEREAS, the application deadline is August 4, 2014, and a local matching share of twenty percent is required for bus purchases under this program; and

WHEREAS, the FTA may award an amount less than the application; and

WHEREAS, although there are a sufficient number of buses to provide the needed level of service within the overall Milwaukee County Transit Service network, the Zoo Interchange Settlement Agreement reached between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) and the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin (BHC) (refer to adopted File No. 14-466) provides an excellent opportunity for Milwaukee County to potentially leverage additional federal funding for buses that is highly consistent with the criteria for the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative grant; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its meeting of July 16, 2014, recommended adoption of the Department’s request (vote 6-0); and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit, at its meeting of

44 July 24, 2014, also recommended adoption of the Department's request (vote 8-0); now,  
45 therefore,

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47 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Director, Department of Transportation, is hereby  
48 authorized to prepare and submit an application for \$3,480,000 in federal funds to the  
49 Federal Transit Administration's Ladders of Opportunity Initiative as there are transit  
50 services being provided that are highly consistent with this federal initiative; and

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52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is understood that a bus purchase is planned as part  
53 of the 2015 Capital Budget and acceptance of these grant funds is contingent upon an  
54 approved capital project for bus replacement by policymakers; and

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56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if successful in obtaining an award, the Milwaukee  
57 County Department of Transportation Director is authorized to execute a subsequent  
58 contract for the delivery of these buses under this grant program.

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jmj  
07/10/14  
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