

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: January 14, 2013

TO: Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairman, Transportation Public Works
& Transit Committee

FROM: Brian Dranzik, Interim Director, Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: 2013 Initiatives for the Department of Transportation

POLICY

This report is presented to the Committee for informational purposes.

BACKGROUND

As requested by the Chairman of the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee, the Department of Transportation has prepared this report to provide a brief summary of 2013 departmental initiatives. The Department of Transportation is comprised of the Airport, Fleet Management, Highway Operations, Transit and the Director's Office. A listing of initiatives is provided for each area.

AIRPORT

Baggage Claim Remodeling

Commence construction for the remodeling of the baggage claim. Originally built in 1955, and last remodeled in 1985, this \$50 million project will totally renovate the baggage claim building, providing new baggage carousels, HVAC, and new finishes including a barrel vault light well, and a green roof.

In-Line Security Baggage System

Complete construction of the in-line security baggage system. This \$38 million project will move the TSA's baggage screening machines from the public ticket lobby, to a back-of-the-house secure room. The automated system will take the bags from the ticket counters, screen them, and deliver the bag to the appropriate airline for placement on the flight. After construction is completed, TSA has to certify the system.

Regional Marketing

General Mitchell International Airport will continue to market the airport with emphasis on customers in Northern Illinois, who are closer to GMIA than to O'Hare.

Maintaining Competitive Balance

The airport will continue to market the airport and provide air service proposals to new and incumbent airlines to add flight activity.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program

Fleet Management will provide \$5.2 million in replacement equipment to user departments. Of the major user departments, Highway will receive \$1.2 million, Parks \$1.5 million, the Sheriff \$900,000 and Airport \$700,000 in replacement equipment.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Fleet Management continues to purchase alternative fuel vehicles when practical for the type and use of vehicle. Fleet Management will continue to monitor trends in alternative fuel vehicles with an emphasis on providing long term operational savings and reduced carbon based emissions.

Zoo Interchange Impact

The Department of Transportation is currently in discussions with the State Department of Transportation about the impact of the Zoo Interchange project to the Fleet Management facility and its operation.

HIGHWAY OPERATIONS

State Routine Maintenance

The Department is discussions with the State regarding the level of work requested by the State relative to the amount of funding provided in the State Biennial Budget. Funding levels are currently provided by a level of service model that the State recognizes it is currently underfunding. Among topics of discussion is adequate funding for additional lane miles, and the change in workload due to major project developments such as the Mitchell Interchange.

Zoo Interchange Impact

The Department will continue to work the State monitoring activities in 2013 that may impact Highway Maintenance ability to perform its duties as anticipated. Work on the extension of Swan Boulevard and its potential impact to the Highway yards area is of primary concern. The site of the replacement salt dome will also be an issue that will require attention and input from the department.

Zoo Mitigation Work

Initial work has begun on the Zoo Interchange project primarily on the road network surrounding the Interchange itself. The State will be asking the County to perform certain mitigation activities in conjunction with this work. One contract has already been received and others are anticipated.

County Truck Project Work

Design work will begin on the following road segments:

- Mill Road from 43rd Street to N. Teutonia Avenue
- South 76th Street W. Puetz to Imperial Drive
- South 68th Street Ryan to House of Correction
- North Cape Road from Hi-View Drive to Carroll Circle
- Ryan Road Culvert east of 112th Street

In addition, construction will begin on North 107th from Brown Deer Road to the County Line.

Traffic hazard Elimination Program

Work will continue on the Traffic Hazard Elimination Program in the areas of:

- 76th Street at Edgerton and Layton
- Layton Avenue at 60th Street

In addition, pedestrian countdown heads will be installed at locations throughout the County.

TRANSIT

New Clean Diesel Buses

55 new buses are on order with the New Flyer Corporation. In addition to the 180 buses replaced over the last three years, more than one-half of the bus the fleet will have been replaced with new buses by fall of 2013 which will enhance service reliability for transit riders. Delivery of the 55 clean diesel buses is scheduled to begin in summer 2013.

Real Time Bus Arrival Information

Work has been completed to upgrade the radio system on MCTS buses and the global positioning system (GPS) that tracks the location of each bus. In 2013, MCTS will take the next step of interfacing these upgraded systems with the route scheduling system which will allow MCTS to provide customers the arrival time of the next bus. MCTS will be seeking bids for software services to create applications for delivery of real time bus arrival information to the public through iPhones, androids and over the internet.

On-Board Bus Stop Announcement System

Installation of a new bus stop announcement system on MCTS buses is scheduled to begin in July 2013. The automated announcement system will provide riders with audio and visual messaging on the next location where the bus is scheduled to stop on the route. For example, the automated system will announce “the next stop is 9th and Wells” and the same message will scroll across a screen at the front of the bus. The new system will help riders who may not know parts of the county very well as well as disabled riders who have a hearing or visual impairment. The system will let riders know where the bus is on the route and where the bus is heading. Overall, this is another step in the direction of improving the system for riders by making it easier to use and navigate.

New Fare Collection System and Contactless Smartcards

New fareboxes, fare vaulting equipment and information technology equipment for the fare collection system is slated to be installed by year end 2013. System design work with the Scheidt & Bachman Company is well underway. Work is also underway by MCTS management to prepare for the transition to the new fare collection system. Planning includes public engagement and education well in advance of the launch of introducing contactless smartcards, and an extensive training program for bus drivers, mechanics and other service personnel.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Zoo Interchange

The Director's Office continues to work as the County's central point of contact for various aspects of the State Department of Transportation Zoo Interchange work. In 2013, the Director's Office will monitor progress and work with the State on minimizing the impacts to various county facilities and institutions, both in and along impacted areas.

State Budget

The Director's Office will monitor the State's Biennial Budget process to assess the impact that it may have to the various divisions within the Department of Transportation. Input will be provided if needed and when appropriate.

Program Funding Impacts

The Department will be monitoring funding criteria changes anticipated for the Surface Transportation Program (STP). The Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has advised the urbanized area representatives that the methodology for funding STP programs will change based on Federal law requirements. This process will take place in 2013 prior to the next round of program application.

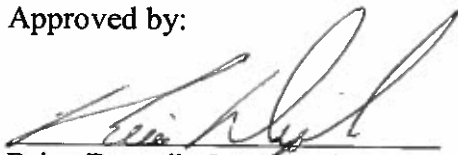
Federal Transportation Bill Changes

The Director's Office will monitor programmatic changes made to various transportation programs as they are made available by each agency within the Federal Department of Transportation. It is anticipated that transit will have the most programmatic impacts. As these changes are developed at the federal level, the Director's Office and transit will review how MCTS will best implement these changes.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is informational.

Approved by:



Brian Dranzik, Interim Director
Department of Transportation

Cc: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
Amber Moreen, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive
Chris Abele
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
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