

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

DATE: 2/18/2022
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: From the Director of the Department of Transportation Requesting Retroactive Authorization to Apply for Federal Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Funds
FILE TYPE: Action Report

REQUEST

Retroactive authorization to apply for and accept funding under the competitive Federal 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program.

POLICY

Per section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the appropriate county board standing committee prior to applying for discretionary federal or state grants that require a local match.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced on September 20, 2021 the opportunity to apply for \$409.59 million in competitive grants under the FY 2021 Section 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. As required by Federal public transportation law, funds will be awarded competitively to assist in the financing of capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase or lease buses and related equipment, and to rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities. Grant awards require a minimum 20% local match and applications were due November 19, 2021.

The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation presently intends to (request) purchase of 60 buses per year in 2023 and 2024 during the capital budget process, at an estimated cost of approximately \$560,000 per bus. To aid in funding these buses, the submitted application requested federal assistance of \$13.44 million per year in 2023 and 2024 for 30 buses/year at an annual cost of \$16.8 million. In the event of a full award, the local share requested in the capital budget would be \$3.36 million per year. In FY 2020, \$463,848,929 were awarded to 96 projects out of 282 eligible submissions.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation recommends retroactive authorization to submit a request to the 5339(b) competitive grant program for \$26.88 million for the purchase of up to 30 buses/year in 2023 and 2024.

FISCAL EFFECT

The direct fiscal impact is dependent on the grant amount (if any) that is ultimately awarded. In the event of a full award, the requested local share in the 2023 and 2024 capital budgets would be \$3.36 million per year. However, the actual requested capital amount will not be impacted by this submission because MCDOT presently intends to request 60 buses per year to meet the operational needs of the transit system.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

Anthony Geiger, Grants Development Manager, MCDOT Director's Office

APPROVED BY:

Julie Esch, Deputy Director

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution/Ordinance, Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk