

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: Retroactive Authorization to Accept Federal COVID Relief funding for the Milwaukee County Transit System
FILE TYPE: Action Report

REQUEST

Retroactive Authorization to Accept Federal COVID Relief funding.

POLICY

Wisconsin Statute 59.52(31) requires County Board approval for state and federal contracts exceeding \$300,000.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted public and private sector operations throughout the world. As part of the effort to create stability and assist with the tremendous financial burden placed upon transit system operators nationwide, the three major stimulus bills provided funds to Milwaukee County for transit assistance. These funds do not require any local match and can be used for operations or capital improvements (provided certain conditions are met). Milwaukee County received funds as distributed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The allocations are listed below.

- CARES Act: \$54,928,728
- CRRSAA: \$52,874,571
- CRRSAA 5310: \$217,149
- ARPA: \$83,627,910
- ARPA 5310: \$217,152

All CARES Act funds are exhausted as of December 31, 2021. The bulk of the CRRSAA Act funds (regular and 5310) are expected to be exhausted by the end of 2022. ARPA funds are expected to be exhausted by the end of 2023.

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 accept Federal COVID relief funding from the CARES, CRRSAA, and ARPA bills totaling \$191,865,510.

FISCAL EFFECT

These funds do not require a local match. 2020 revenue did not change substantially from what was budgeted. Rather, CARES act funding was used in lieu of other federal funding and to offset farebox losses. In 2021 and 2022, covid relief funds were part of the adopted budget.

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