

**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 Apply for and Accept Funding Under the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program  
FILE TYPE: Action Report

**REQUEST**

Retroactive authorization to apply for and accept funding under the Areas of Persistent Poverty 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 June 30, 2021 the opportunity to apply for \$16.3 million in competitive grants under the FY 2020-1 Areas of Persistent Poverty Program. As required by law, funds will be awarded competitively for planning, engineering, or development of technical or financing plans for projects that assist areas of persistent poverty. Grant awards require a 10% local match and applications were due September 13, 2021.

The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) seeks to obtain this award to fund our latest endeavor into acquiring rider travel survey data. This data will assist transit planners in determining how the recently redesigned system of fixed routes is being used, especially the expanded network of high-frequency routes, many of which serve large portions of census tracts containing a majority of low-income residents. This data will also be used by MCTS in their efforts to address racial equity in public transportation by enhancing job access, decreasing travel times, and understanding routes' demographic profile.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.  
2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation recommends retroactive authorization to submit an application for, and to accept if awarded, a request for funds under the federal FY 2020-1 Areas of Persistent Poverty Program.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

The total cost of this project is estimated at \$850,000. If the funds are awarded, the federal share would be \$765,000 with a local match of \$85,000 funded by the MCTS operating budget. No additional funds are being requested beyond what is in 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*

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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