

## COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

### Inter-office Communication

DATE: 3/17/2023  
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 and accept, if awarded, a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant  
FILE TYPE: Action Report

#### REQUEST

Requesting retroactive authorization to apply for and accept, if awarded, a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant.

#### POLICY

Per Section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the County Board to apply for and execute discretionary federal or state grants that require a local match.

#### BACKGROUND

The Federal Administration (FTA) is soliciting applications for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. Funds for the FY 2023 RAISE grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Projects will be evaluated based on statutory, primary selection criteria: safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, and mobility and community connectivity. Selection criteria also includes but is not limited to benefits to historically disadvantaged communities or areas of persistent poverty.

Besides infrastructure projects, funding has been made available for the planning, preparation, or design of projects that meet the aforementioned criteria. The project applications MCDOT plans to submit are:

- MCTS Bus Replacement Program
  - 46 buses (approx. \$33.6 million federal, \$8.4 million local)
- MCTS Improvements to Transit Infrastructure including:
  - Charging infrastructure, facility security, passenger counters, bus shelters, ADA compliant bus stop landing pads (approx. \$11.4 million federal, \$2.85 million local)

#### ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

Transit infrastructure investments will be reviewed from a racial equity perspective to ensure minority populations have enhanced transit access to jobs and health care.

- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.  
Proper infrastructure funding will allow for transit sustainability for those dependent upon the system to get to jobs, health care and other needed services.
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability.  
The County will only be required to fund 20% of the total costs of the grant.
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.  
Greater and more reliable access to transit will provide more opportunities to minority and low-income citizens who depend on the transit system all times of the day and days of the week.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Department be retroactively authorized to apply for and accept the RAISE grant, should it be awarded in part or in full.

FISCAL EFFECT

The Department of Transportation’s application may not be awarded in full, thus the exact amount of the local funding required may be less than the estimates provided herein.

Projects selected for RAISE funding will be included in the appropriate year capital budgets or authorized by fund transfer process over the grant period along with the required 20 percent local matching contribution. The department expects to be notified of selected projects in late 2023.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

John Rodgers, Senior Manager Grants Compliance

APPROVED BY:

*Donna Brown-Martin*

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Donna Brown-Martin  
Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS

Report, Resolution, and Fiscal Note

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