

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-office Communication

Date: 8/18/2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
Denise Wandke, President and Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation and the President and Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System providing an Information Report on the status of the East-West Bus Rapid Transit (CONNECT 1) route.

File Type: Informational Report

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**BACKGROUND**

Milwaukee County and the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) initiated a study in 2016 that eventually led to development of a design for the East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) officially committed to funding \$40.9 million of the \$55 million project in December 2020.

The project has since completed two years of construction and procurement (Summer 2021-Summer 2023), culminating in revenue service June 4, 2023.

To keep the Board informed of the East-West BRT's performance and operations, MCTS will provide an update using the attached presentation.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Describe how the item aligns to the strategic plan:

- 1A: Reflect the full diversity of the county at every level of County government
- 1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses.
- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered.
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.
- 3A: Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities.
- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

David Locher, Manager of Enhanced Transit, MCTS, [dlocher@mcts.org](mailto:dlocher@mcts.org)  
Denise Wandke, President and Managing Director, MCTS, [dwandke@mcts.org](mailto:dwandke@mcts.org)  
Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

**PREPARED BY:**

Denise Wandke, President and Managing Director, MCTS

**APPROVED BY:**

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Power Point Presentation

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