

(ITEM 73) From the Director, Department of Transportation, requesting authorization to enter into a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) for the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to provide transit services as a result of the settlement agreement between WisDOT and the Plaintiffs (Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope and the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin) as part of the Zoo Interchange Freeway Reconstruction Project, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in March 2012, the Federal Highway Administration approved the Zoo Interchange Reconstruction and Expansion Project at a projected cost of \$1.7 billion; and

WHEREAS, in August 2012, the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin and Midwest Environmental Advocates filed a lawsuit against federal transportation agencies and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) on behalf of Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) and the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin (BHC) for inadequately addressing the needs of persons who rely on transit within the scope of the \$1.7 billion project; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the settlement, WisDOT, MICAH, and BHC (plaintiffs) must ultimately agree on a newly created route; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) have worked with WisDOT and the plaintiffs to provide assistance in the route development that address the terms of the settlement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed settlement will make about \$2.875 million available to MCTS annually from 2014 through 2018 for transit routes and related services specific to the settlement agreement; and

WHEREAS, WisDOT is also planning to provide an additional \$500,000 annually for marketing efforts related to these routes; and

WHEREAS, at this time, WisDOT is proposing to fund additional transit service during the reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange, with a focus on creating new local or express routes or extending existing transit services from Milwaukee to locations within western, northwestern, or southwestern Milwaukee County or within Waukesha and Washington Counties; and

WHEREAS, at this time, an initial route-specific contract is being developed between WisDOT and MCTS to fund a reverse commute express service route from the

central city to Park Place Business Park in Milwaukee County and the Menomonee Falls industrial park in Waukesha County; and

WHEREAS, it should be noted that Milwaukee County was not a party to the lawsuit between WisDOT and the plaintiffs MICAH and BHC, and approval of the transit services contract between WisDOT and Milwaukee County in no way makes the County a party to the lawsuit and that Milwaukee County will only function as the transit service provider to fulfill the terms of the settlement agreement between the plaintiffs and WisDOT under the general direction of WisDOT; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its meeting on May 20, 2014, recommended adoption of the Department's request (vote 7-0); and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit, at its meeting on May 22, 2014, also recommended adoption of the Department's request (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation is authorized to enter into a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) for the Milwaukee County Transit System to provide transit services, including operation of the proposed Route 279, which is expected to become effective August 24, 2014, as a result of the Settlement Agreement between WisDOT and the Plaintiffs (Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope and the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin) as part of the Zoo Interchange Freeway Reconstruction project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these transit services are provided with the purpose of reducing travel times and increasing access to areas of employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services is authorized to process a 2014 administrative appropriation transfer for Org. Unit 5600 Transit/Paratransit to increase operating budget authority to reflect the additional expenditures that will result from entering into the contract with WisDOT and to recognize the state revenue, which fully offsets the increased cost for the transit services being provided.

jmj
05/21/14
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