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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., and Mayo, Sr., authorizing the Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System and the County Executive to develop recommendations to address the 2016 budget shortfalls attributed to the Growing Opportunities Pass and the decline in transit ridership, and requesting a report on those recommendations, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2015 Adopted Budget created a new transit pass program, the Growing Opportunities Pass (GO Pass), to provide fixed route transit rides without charge to persons 65 years of age or older and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Adopted Budget authorized Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to develop and implement a unique smart card ID program for GO Pass participants that supports and improves the mobility of Milwaukee County’s (the County) seniors and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, as of September 29, 2015, MCTS issued 15,804 GO Passes to seniors and persons with disabilities for a total of 2,043,460 rides, resulting in an associated deficit of \$1,795,239 in passenger fare revenue, according to a MCTS fiscal report; and

WHEREAS, according to MCTS, approximately 21,000 GO Passes have been issued to seniors and persons with disabilities as of March 31, 2016, for a total of seven million rides; and

WHEREAS, in a report dated May 12, 2016, the Director of the Department of Transportation reported a \$7.1 million projected revenue shortfall due to the GO Pass, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) related changes, and general ridership decline; and

WHEREAS, according to Transit officials, of the \$7.1 million projected revenue deficit, \$3 million is attributable to the GO Pass, \$1 million of lower revenue is due to MPS related changes, and \$3.1 million is related to a decline in general ridership; and

WHEREAS, although the GO Pass program promotes added mobility and freedom for the County’s seniors and persons with disabilities, the reported revenue shortfalls must be addressed; and

WHEREAS, although ridership is impacted by a variety of economic factors, such as fuel prices, unemployment rates, and economic health, there is also an immediate need to find innovative solutions to increase ridership and ensure the vitality of public transportation in the County; and

46 WHEREAS, projected savings in fringe benefit and healthcare costs in the
47 amount of approximately \$2.7 million, and fuel expense costs in the amount of
48 approximately \$2.3 million for the County total approximately \$5 million, offsetting a
49 portion of the projected revenue deficit, resulting in a projected net deficit of
50 approximately \$2.1 million for 2016; and

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52 WHEREAS, this projected deficit of \$2.1 million requires immediate action by
53 administrative leadership; and

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55 WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its
56 meeting of June 8, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 6-0); now,
57 therefore,

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59 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorizes the
60 Director of the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) and the County Executive to
61 develop recommendations to address the 2016 budget deficit attributed to the Growing
62 Opportunities Pass (GO Pass) and the decline in transit ridership; and

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64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCTS and the County Executive are
65 requested to provide a written report of their recommendations to the Committee on
66 Transportation, Public Works, and Transit for the July 2016 meeting.

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