

FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

File No. 18-167

A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., and Mayo, Sr., authorizing and requesting the Milwaukee County Transit System to maintain Route 42U service to the Milwaukee Area Technical College-North Campus and to examine the factors that led to an operating surplus for 2017 to determine whether transit cuts are required to balance the 2018 Transit Budget, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2018 Adopted Budget included a 0.75 percent spending reduction of \$888,586 for the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to help balance the Milwaukee County (the County) Budget without doubling the vehicle registration fee (VRF) to \$60 as proposed by the County Executive in the Recommended Budget; and

WHEREAS, MCTS, with the support of the County Executive's Administration, proposed to meet the 2018 spending reduction for transit without any cuts to administrative overhead, but rather to eliminate or modify ten transit routes as outlined in File No. 18-79; and

WHEREAS, based on fiscal activity reported by MCTS staff, the Office of the Comptroller projected a \$1 million surplus for MCTS in 2017 based on financial activity through September 2017 (File 17-803); and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Comptroller revised the surplus projection for MCTS to \$2.75 million (File No. 18-152) for financial activity through December 2017, after MCTS reported additional savings primarily related to fuel and fringe benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this growing surplus, on January 18, 2018, the Managing Director of MCTS wrote that the VRF revenues for 2017 are projected to be \$400,000 more than expected; and

WHEREAS, although there are numerous options available to generate savings, while also preserving transit service, such as examination of the factors that contributed to the \$2.75 million surplus for 2017 and an examination of 2018 VRF revenues, MCTS and the County Executive's Administration chose to act immediately to eliminate service on various transit routes; and

WHEREAS, these cuts include the elimination of UBUS Route 42U that provides service to Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) North and Downtown; and

WHEREAS, MATC contributes in excess of \$1 million in revenue annually to MCTS via the UPASS program, and eliminating service to Route 42U may threaten the relationship between MCTS and MATC, which could result in a significant loss of passengers and revenue; and

WHEREAS, route modifications, such as those made by amendment to File No. 18-81, which extends Route 12 or 49 to preserve service of eliminated route 276 per File No. 18-79, are creative and cost-saving efficiencies that enable transit service to continue; and

WHEREAS, other options for decreasing operation costs and improving efficiencies should be explored prior to proposing cuts to transit service; and

WHEREAS, there should be an analysis of the impact to riders, communities, employers, and commercial centers, and route modifications to ensure continued service before transit routes are eliminated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) authorizes and requests the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to provide a written report for the March 2018 cycle, which includes an analysis of all financial factors that led to the \$2.75 million surplus for 2017, and whether the 2018 Budget reflected these trends, and a response to the specific requests of the Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit contained in the letter dated January 17, 2018, hereto attached to this file; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes and requests MCTS to preserve UBUS Route 42U and ensure continued service to Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)-North Campus, as well as other existing routes, until the provisions of this resolution are completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes and requests that MCTS shall consider and quantify all forms of revenue generated from a given route prior to a decision to eliminate service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes and requests that 2018 vehicle registration fee (VRF) revenues in excess of the amount projected in the 2018 Adopted Budget, shall be used to maintain transit service and avoid service cuts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes and requests the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and MCTS to analyze all proposed route eliminations outlined in File No. 18-79, and to provide a written report for the March 2018 cycle, which includes various modification options for existing bus routes.

jmj
02/02/18