

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: 9/18/2018
TO: John Weishan, Jr., Chairperson, Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Status of Contract Negotiations with Amalgamated Transit Union

BACKGROUND

For the past three years, employees represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local #998 have been working under a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with a term of April 1, 2015 thru March 31, 2018. The labor agreement is between ATU and Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc. (MTS), a quasi-governmental instrumentality of Milwaukee County responsible for managing and operating the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS).

MTS and ATU have agreed to an extension of the current CBA terms through December 31, 2018 to allow for ample time for negotiations on a subsequent CBA to proceed. The schedule for negotiation meetings has been sporadic, at best, due to limited availability of the ATU negotiating team members. Three initial negotiation sessions were held on the following dates before ATU requested that all further negotiation meetings be facilitated by a Federal Mediator: March 6, 2018; May 11, 2018; and May 30, 2018.

Negotiation sessions facilitated by a Mediator from the local Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) office have occurred on the following dates: August 7 to 9, 2018; and September 5 to 6, 2018.

Additional sessions to be facilitated by FMCS are scheduled for: October 24 to 25, 2018; November 7 to 8, 2018; December 11, 2018, December 13, 2018, and December 18 to 19, 2018.

MTS's goals for negotiations include:

- Uphold the mission (e.g. provide reliable, convenient and safe public transportation)
- Employee engagement/satisfaction (e.g. provide stable work and family supporting wages)
- Responsible budgeting (e.g. accurately project costs/revenues)
- Preserving service
 - Maintain existing bus hours of service, as possible
 - Explore route efficiency/effectiveness and propose changes when needed
 - Provide paratransit services as required
- Preserve reasonable fares
- Control costs and manage to our budget

Finally, the County Board of Supervisors will be notified when significant progress towards a new agreement has occurred. In the meantime, MCTS has established a website for updates on such progress: <https://www.ridemcts.com/laborupdate>.

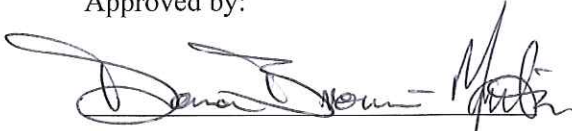
RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by:

Dan Boehm, President & Managing Director, MCTS

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Brown-Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Joe Lamers, Budget Director, DAS - PSB
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller