

**County of Milwaukee**  
**Interoffice Communication**

**19-08**

**DATE:** 3/22/2019  
**TO:** Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
**SUBJECT:** Status of Contract Negotiations with Amalgamated Transit Union

BACKGROUND

Negotiations toward a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc. (MTS) and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 998 have gone on for over a year. The term of the expired labor agreement was April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2018.

As reported in March 2019, MTS continues to negotiate in good faith whenever ATU has been available. We have met with the assistance of a mediator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), and we have also met in person, face-to-face when the mediator has not been available due to scheduling conflicts. Although progress has been slow, we have continued to discuss and resolve some of the lesser issues.

On March 11, 2019, MTS proposed that we end this year-long negotiation process by using an arbitrator to finalize the details of our healthcare plan. This compromise approach was used successfully a decade ago, when ATU and MTS agreed that an independent third-party arbitrator should hear arguments regarding healthcare from each party, and then determine the most reasonable healthcare plan to go forward with.

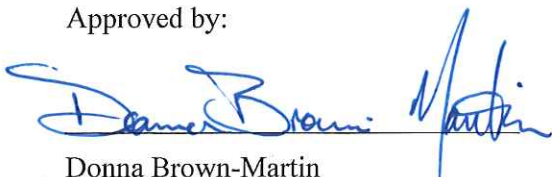
A verbal update at the April meeting of the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee will be necessary, as the deadline for this written report preceded one or more schedule negotiation dates in March.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by: Dan Boehm, President & Managing Director, MCTS

Approved by:



Donna Brown-Martin  
Director, Department of Transportation

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