

# 2020 TRANSIT OPERATING BUDGET CONCERNS

*The Transit operating budget is estimated to have a potential shortfall of \$6.4 million in 2020*



- A report from Joe Lamers, Director of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB) that was presented to Milwaukee County's Finance and Audit Committee in March 2019.

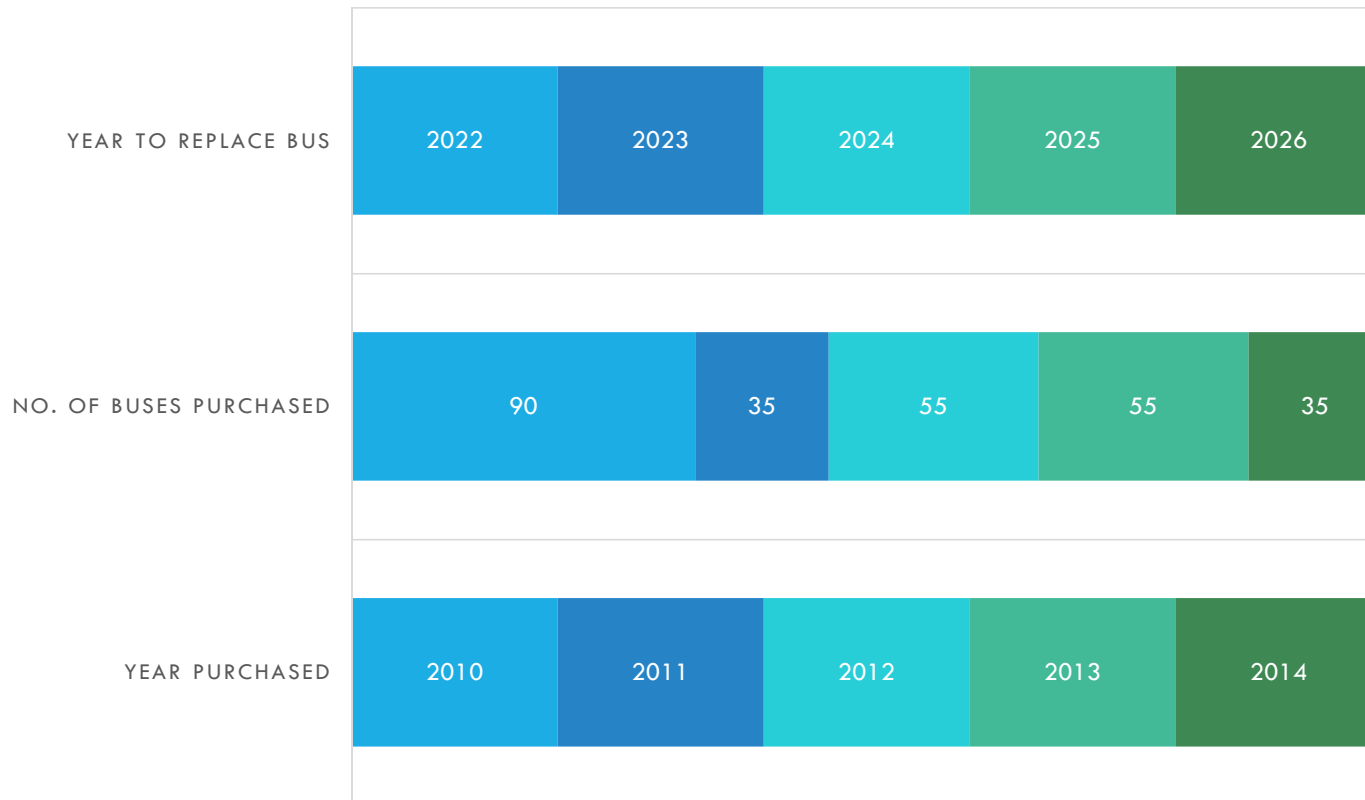
# MILWAUKEE COUNTY'S TRANSIT CRISIS: HOW DID WE GET HERE, AND WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Over a decade ago, in May 2008, the Public Policy Forum (now known as Wisconsin Policy Forum) issued a report.

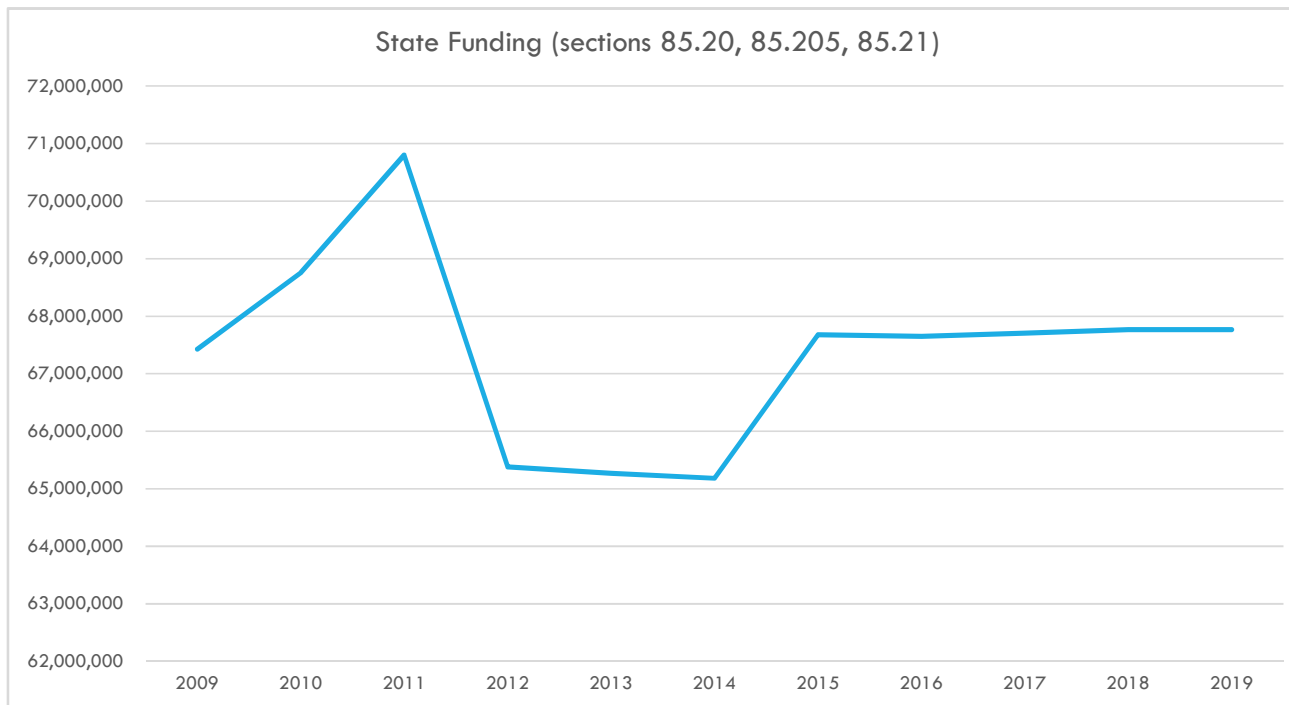
At that time, the President of the Public Policy Forum often stated publicly that there was a County funds gap between farebox, State/Federal assistance and actual costs.

*“Our analysis of the Milwaukee County Transit System’s fiscal situation indicates a striking structural imbalance that has been building for years, caused by disparity between revenue growth and operating expenditure needs. Thanks to a spend-down of significant reserves that were built up in the late 1990s, and a decision to defer needed bus replacements, a full-fledged crisis has been averted for the past eight years. But now, barring a significant infusion of federal funds to help pay for bus replacements, it appears time is about to run out.”*

# TRANSIT CAPITAL BUDGET CONCERNS

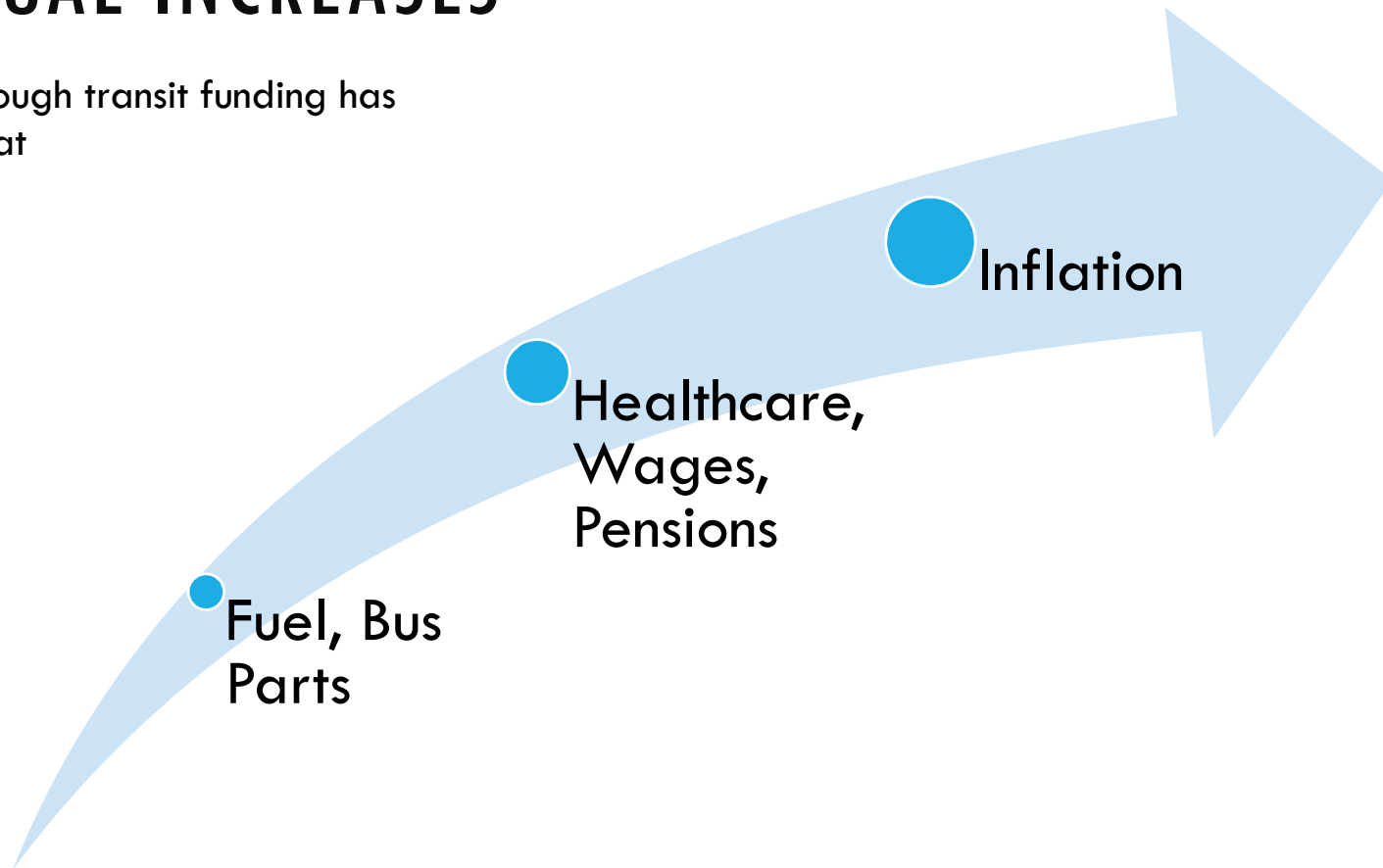


# STATE FUNDING LEVELS (TRANSIT OPERATING \$)

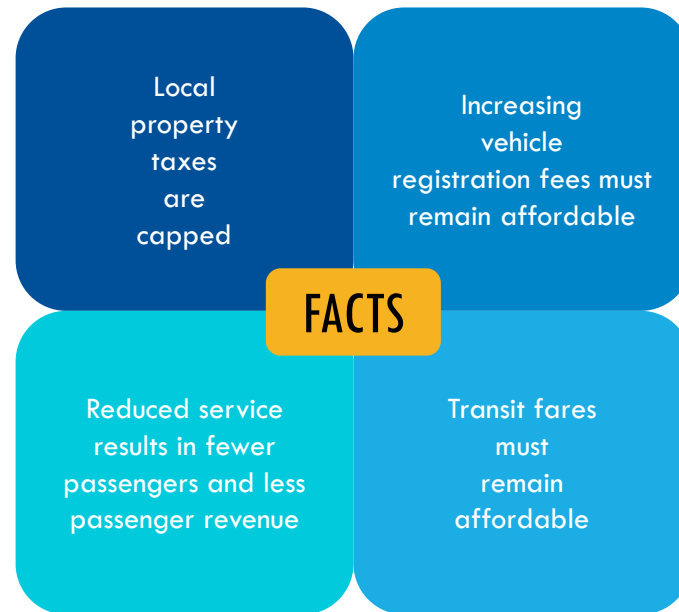


# ANNUAL INCREASES

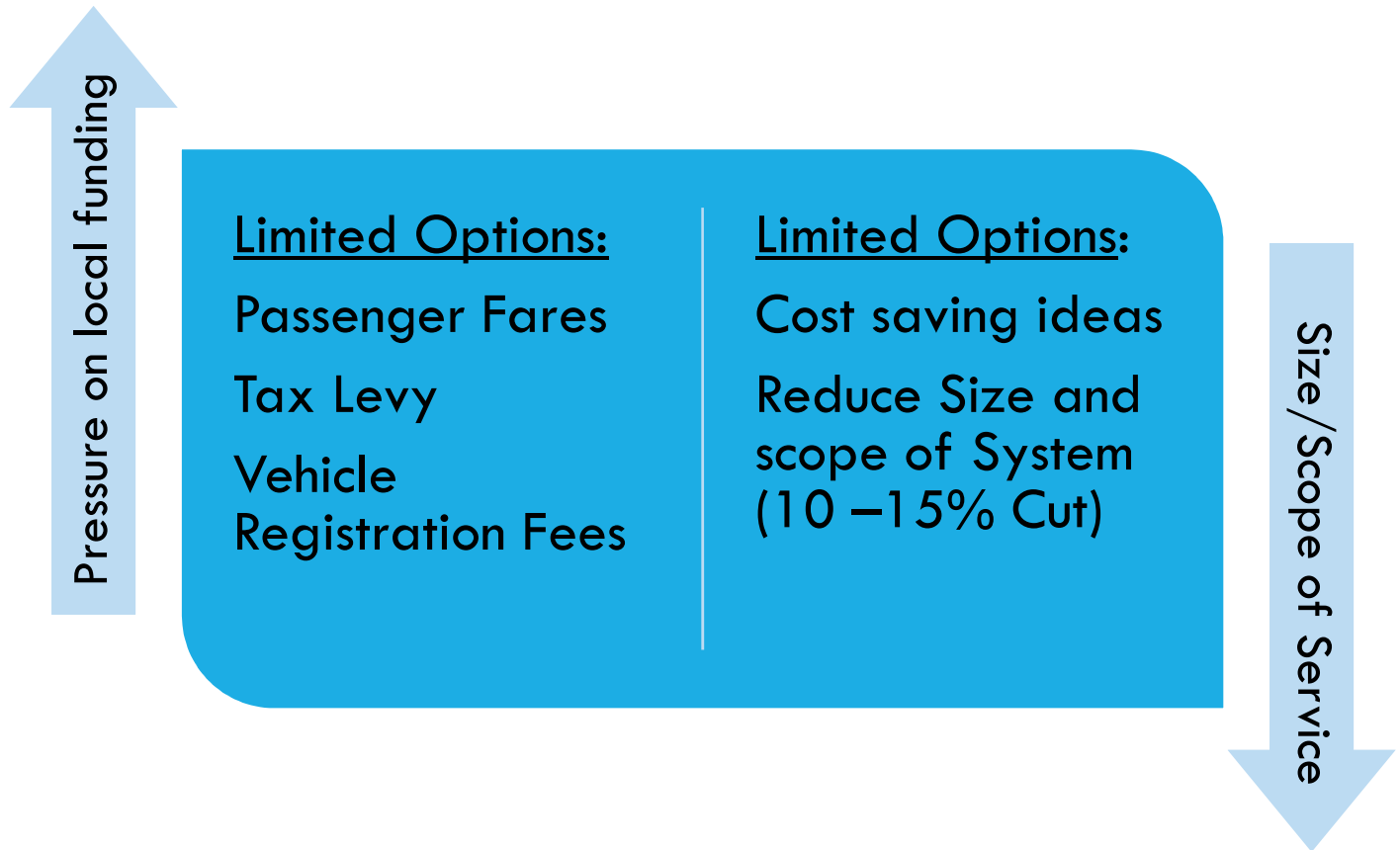
Even though transit funding has been flat



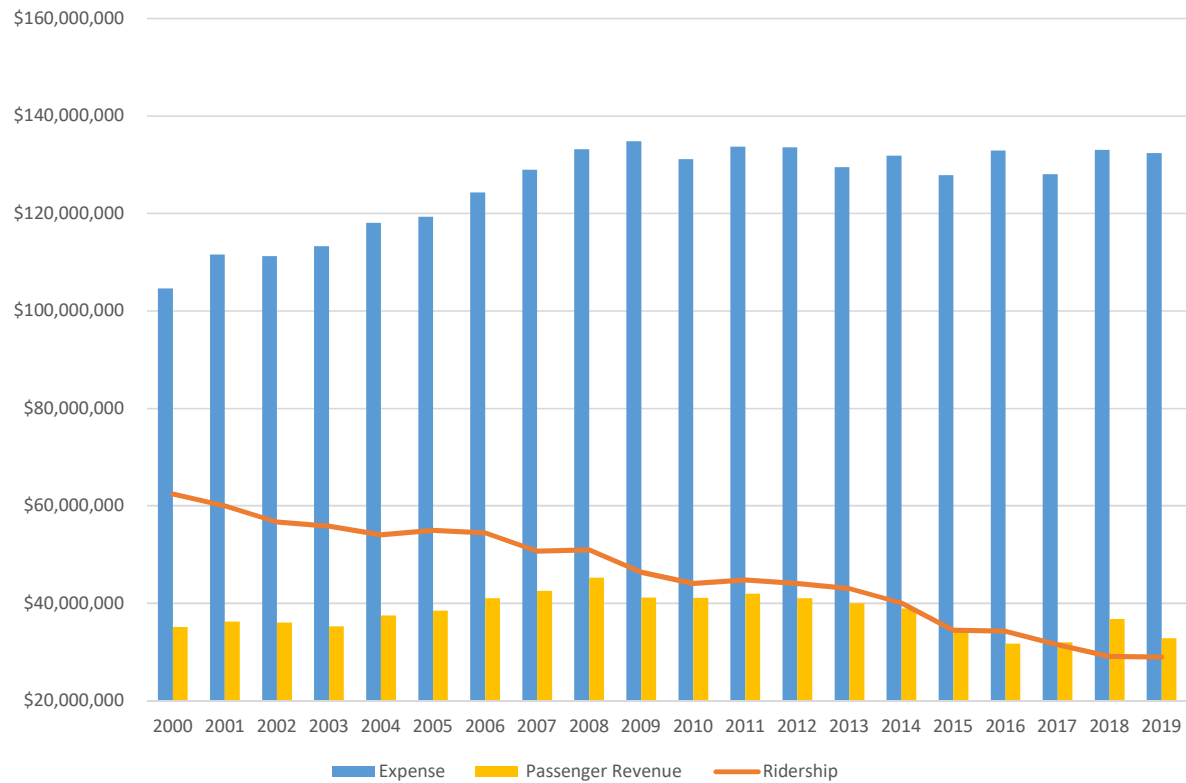
# WE HAVE A REVENUE PROBLEM



# IF FUNDING CAN'T GO UP – SERVICE GOES DOWN



# RISING EXPENSES, DECLINING RIDERSHIP





# WEIGHING THE COSTS OF BUDGET CUTS

## • What MCTS Riders Want

An affordable and reliable ride to:

- ✓ Work
- ✓ School
- ✓ Appointments
- ✓ Leisure Activities



## • What Transit Stakeholders Want

- ✓ Employers need employees to grow
- ✓ Students need access to schools
- ✓ Expanded Services
- Budgets cuts constrain opportunities to empower people and strengthen community

# WAYS TO IMPROVE TRANSIT FOR THE COMMUNITY

## *MCTS NEXT*

Faster service, with more connections and increased accessibility



## *East-West BRT*

Bus Rapid Transit connects people to jobs, sparks economic development and mitigates traffic congestion



## *Safety, Reliability, Customer Focus and Customer Convenience*

Commitment to mission, and new technology that can make it easier to use transit, such as the RideMCTS App

