



## 2010 Recommended Budget – ParaTransit

October 19, 2009

The biennial budget proposed by Gov. Jim Doyle cut Medicaid transportation spending by \$17.6 million. The version passed by the members of the State Legislature reduced the cut, but it still reduced support for Medicaid transportation by \$6.8 million.

Worse yet, the final version of the state budget left intact a change in how the state pays for rides for Medicaid recipients. Under the budget, the state will only pay for the cost of the individual fare and not the true cost of the ride.

In Milwaukee County, ParaTransit rides cost the county \$27 per ride with the rider paying a fare of \$3.25. The county will be short approximately \$2 million each year if the state only pays for the fare and not the true cost of the ride.

The 2010 proposed county budget maintains the coverage area for ParaTransit if the state corrects the funding flaw for Medicaid transportation. If the state fails to fix the funding shortfall, the county budget moves to reduce the coverage area to the requirement mandated by the federal government.

Bottom-line: the cuts proposed by Governor Doyle's administration and the final budget enacted by the majorities in the State Legislature are the reasons for the potential adjustments to the ParaTransit routes. If the state government fixes the funding flaws, the ParaTransit coverage area remains the same for 2010.

Scott Walker  
Milwaukee County Executive