



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 15, 2013

Dear Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Legislature:

Our community needs restored transit funding and transit funding stability. Transit is key to the vitality of our community and our economy and Milwaukee County's economic vitality benefits the entire state.

We urge you to implement the following in the 2013-15 Biennial State Budget:

- Maintain the segregated Transportation Fund as the source for transit funding. Transit is as integral a part of the transportation system as roads and requires the same stable dedicated funding from the segregated funding source.
- Restore state transit operating aids that were cut in the 2011-13 biennial budget, with interest, to preserve vital transit services.

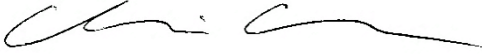
During the last biennial budget, state transit aids were cut by 10% leaving Milwaukee County's public transit in a vulnerable position. The Milwaukee County Transit System was able to temporarily preserve service through the use of one time Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. These funds will run out in 2014 and not be available thereafter to fill the gap created by the 10% cut in state transit aids.

For Milwaukee County, the resulting impact of a reduction in service if the state aids are not restored will be reduced access to employment for workers – who make up 48% of transit riders statewide – and reduced employee flexibility and access for employers. Furthermore, without predictable restored state funding, we cannot continue to connect students and the unemployed to education and training and senior citizens to healthcare and other basic necessities. Without adequate resources, our 151,000 daily riders will be left out in the cold and the emergent transit demand from young professionals and a growing senior population will be unmet.

Public transportation is a vital component to a healthy economy. Restoration of funding cuts and maintaining transit system funding from the Transportation Fund are critical to maintaining dependable service for the workers, employers and students in Milwaukee County.

We very much appreciate your attention to our concerns. If you have further questions about the implication for Milwaukee County, please contact John Zapfel, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Milwaukee County Executive; John.Zapfel@milwcnty.com.

Sincerely,



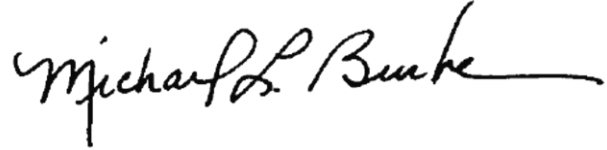
County Executive Chris Abele



Mayor Tom Barrett



Chancellor Michael Lovell, UWM



President Michael Burke, MATC



President Tim Sheehy, MMAC

CC: Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Mark Gottlieb, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors