



collaborāte / formulāte / innovāte

October 25, 2016

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
901 N 9th Street, Room 306
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in support of Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele's SAVE Transit plan to ensure the future sustainability of Milwaukee County's transportation system.

As the leader of a major employer in Milwaukee, I recognize the importance of a strong transit system. We need a robust transportation network to get people to job training, interviews, and worksites. There are jobs that need to be filled all over the Milwaukee County and surrounding communities that are out of reach of people who need employment if they don't have a car.

I applaud the County Executive and County Board for maintaining stable route fares and adding route miles for the last five years, but know that trend isn't sustainable without increased investment. These recent improvements will be put at risk by a lack of action to support the long-term sustainability of the system. Moreover, if we want to see growth and expansion of transit service in the future, such as to worksites where employers have unfilled jobs, then we must act now.

The SAVE Transit plan includes three components that help ensure a brighter and stronger future for transportation and transit in Milwaukee County. It funds the modernization our transit service with Bus Rapid Transit, which makes long cross-county commutes feasible for more workers. It stabilizes the operating budget of the transit system by reshaping the GO Pass. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it creates dedicated funding for transit and infrastructure maintenance with a vehicle registration fee.

Of the three plan components, the vehicle registration fee has the greatest potential for a transformative effect on the employment landscape in Milwaukee County. Without the vehicle registration fee, the likelihood of being able to increase transit access to jobs that are outside the current system would be slim, while the likelihood of reducing service would be much greater.

Our community needs a more robust transportation system to drive our local economy forward. We cannot wait for other levels of government to fix this problem. I ask you to ensure the sustainability of our transportation system. Please support the County Executive's proposed SAVE Transit plan and keep Milwaukee County's workers traveling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Kissinger'.

John Kissinger, P.E.
President and CEO

JHK:mif