



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway
Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee

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For Immediate Release
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY IGNORES TRANSIT CONCERNS IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Rental car tax increase is a raw deal for taxpayers

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, Supervisor James White and Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., released the following statement in response to the Regional Transit Authority's decision to delay action on finding a dedicated funding source for the Milwaukee County Transit System.

“We’re disappointed the Regional Transit Authority is ignoring the needs of low-income and minority residents in our community. The Milwaukee County Transit System provides an extensive route network that is easily accessible to County residents from all walks of life. The decision to ignore the needs of a transit infrastructure that’s already in place, while recommending a \$13 increase on each car rental to support commuter rail, is preposterous. If we’re going to fund the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail option, we should also shore up funding for MCTS. We would prefer that the appointees to the RTA, especially County Executive appointee George Torres and Mayor appointee Sharon Robinson, identify a non-property tax dedicated funding source for MCTS.”

“The plan would also pose a possible hardship on General Mitchell International Airport, which is owned and operated by Milwaukee County, where most of southeastern Wisconsin’s car rentals take place. The proposed commuter rail line would extend the entire length of Kenosha and Racine Counties; only a small portion of Milwaukee County would benefit. Yet, Milwaukee County’s GMIA would be footing most of the bill for commuter rail. This is a raw deal for Milwaukee County and its taxpayers. We’re urging all of our constituents to contact their State legislators and urge them to vote against this plan. We will continue to oppose this plan until it includes dedicated funding for the bus services already provided for the citizens of Milwaukee County.”

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