



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway
Supervisor Richard D. Nyklewicz, Jr.

October 11, 2007
For Immediate Release
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CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY RESTORES FUNDING TO EIGHT TRANSIT SEGMENTS ON THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S CHOPPING BLOCK

County Executive's actions on transit do not match his rhetoric

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Board's Finance and Audit Committee this morning unanimously approved a Budget Amendment from Board Chairman Lee Holloway that aims to restore funding for eight Milwaukee County Transit System route segments in Milwaukee County.

“The County Executive made a political decision to cut certain segments of routes. While his decision was not based on usage, I actually looked at the numbers,” Chairman Holloway said. “With 13 members of the County Board supporting my plan, we have a **veto-proof majority** and will restore these route segments.”

The route segments that would be restored include:

- Route 12 north of Florist Avenue, serving Supervisors Toni Clark's and Joe Rice's districts
- Route 23 north and west of 91st and Mill Road, serving riders in Supervisors Roger Quindel's and Joe Rice's districts
- Route 31, west of 76th Street in Supervisors Jim “Luigi” Schmitt's and Lynne De Bruin's districts
- Route 67, south of Connell on 84th and 92nd Streets in Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr's, district
- Routes 19/20 South of Layton in Supervisor Richard D. Nyklewicz, Jr's, district
- Route 15 in Supervisor Patricia Jursik's district

“The fairest way to determine which segments to restore was to actually look at the numbers. That's why my decision to restore these routes was based on ridership, not politics,” Chairman Holloway added.

“Helping County residents get to work, school, church, the doctor and shopping should be one of our top priorities. Many of these residents have no alternatives but to ride the bus.”

This morning’s discussion at the Finance and Audit Committee Budget Hearing on the matter also included discussion on a broader issue: the continued lack of a dedicated non-property tax funding source for mass transit in Milwaukee County.

“The County Executive has a duty (but has so far failed) to follow County policy in identifying a funding source that will earn the approval of the Governor and the State Legislature,” said Supervisor Richard D. Nyklewicz, Jr., Chairman of the County Board’s Finance and Audit Committee. “Adopted Milwaukee County policy states that the ‘highest priority’ of the Regional Transit Authority should be ‘to identify a non-property tax dedicated funding alternative for the ongoing operation of the Milwaukee County Transit System’s rubber tire bus service.’ Due to his repeated vetoes of advisory referenda on additional sales taxes to fund mass transit and other priorities, County Executive Walker has single-handedly chosen to make this a non-property tax *and non-sales tax* funding source.”

“The County Board has been out front pushing for the identification of this dedicated funding source for transit. **By contrast, the County Executive’s actions do not match his rhetoric,”** Supervisor Nyklewicz said at this morning’s meeting, holding up a sign describing the County Executive as being ‘Positively Clintonsque.’ “While he claims to support transit, he proposes detrimental cuts or fare increases each and every year. It’s difficult to accept the County Executive’s claim that his budget restores service when the reality is there are \$5 million in service cuts we’re dealing with. It really is Positively Clintonsque,” Nyklewicz added.

Chairman Holloway’s amendment to restore the route segments is co-sponsored by Supervisors Nyklewicz, James G. White, Michael Mayo, Sr., Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, John F. Weishan, Jr., Patricia Jursik, Gerry Broderick, Roger Quindel, Peggy West, Marina Dimitrijevic, and Toni M. Clark.

The full County Board will consider all amendments passed by the Finance and Audit Committee when adopting the 2008 County Budget on Monday, November 5 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse. In addition, the County Board’s annual Public Hearing on the County Executive’s 2008 Recommended Budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, October 29, 2007, at the Washington Park Senior Center.

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