



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District

For Immediate Release January 30, 2012
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

TRANSIT FUNDING CHALLENGES LOOM AS NEW ROUTES ARE LAUNCHED

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., is calling on leaders at the State and County levels to continue efforts to continue their fight to preserve public transit in Milwaukee County. His announcement comes on the heels of the Milwaukee County Transit System's (MCTS) launch of three new express routes on Sunday.

“I’m pleased that these express routes allow us to provide quicker service along busy public transit corridors in Milwaukee County,” Supervisor Biddle said. “It’s great that the BlueLine will provide express service in the heart of the 10th District along Fond du Lac Avenue and the GreenLine will also serve the 10th District with express service to Bayshore Town Center and General Mitchell International Airport.”

MCTS received \$12.7 million in CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funds from the Federal government for developing the new express routes.

“While I welcome these express routes, which are great news for the short-term, let’s not lose sight of establishing a dedicated source of local funding. We need a common sense solution to solve the long-term transit funding challenges that remain,” Supervisor Biddle added. “I support the bill currently being circulated in Madison to reverse the nearly \$7 million cut to MCTS that was in the 2011-2013 State Budget, and I call on the Governor and State Legislature to put politics aside and solve this problem. Fixing transit is one of the best ways to jumpstart jobs and economic development in Milwaukee County.”

###