



# *Milwaukee County*

*County Executive Chris Abele - Board Chairman Lee Holloway  
Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman*

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## **County Officials Praise Regional Support for Transit Funding *If Approved, Funding Would Create Express Routes, Help Save Existing Services***

**MILWAUKEE** – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, County Board Chairman Lee Holloway and Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., on Friday praised the unanimous recommendation by three regional advisory committees to allocate approximately \$12.7 million in federal funds to Milwaukee County to create new express bus routes.

If the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT), which makes the final decision, follows the recommendation, the Milwaukee County Transit System will offer new express routes starting next year between N. 124<sup>th</sup> Street and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee along Capitol Drive, and another from Bayshore Town Center Mall to Mitchell International Airport.

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds were previously awarded for the KRM (Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee) commuter rail project before the State dissolved the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SERTA). After the dissolution, WISDOT sought applications to use the funds for alternative transit projects in Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine Counties.

Abele said that while his 2012 proposed budget conservatively planned for a potential grant of \$10 million, he was pleased that the committees recommended the additional funds, which can only be used to improve service on the new express routes.

“These grants will help bring needed new routes to Milwaukee County transit users and enable us to preserve current services,” Abele said. “I appreciate the strong regional support our proposal has received and am hopeful that WISDOT will allocate the funding as recommended.”

“Governor Walker was a supporter of express buses when he served as County Executive. I am pleased with today’s decision and respectfully ask Governor Walker and DOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb to give final approval for these funds to Milwaukee County,” Chairman Lee Holloway said. “We look forward to providing enhanced service through new express routes in Milwaukee County.”

“Express service will attract more riders and make the transit system more user friendly,” said Supervisor Mayo, Chairman of the County Board’s Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee and Treasurer of SERTA. “This decision truly is a win-win for the residents of Milwaukee County.”

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