



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., 7th District

Chairman, Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET GUTS TRANSIT FUNDING FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway and Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., are responding to Governor Scott Walker's 2011-13 budget proposal, which includes a 10% reduction in transit funding. The budget also shifts bus funding out of the Transportation Fund to the already overburdened General Purpose Revenue (GPR) fund. This puts transit funding in competition with schools and local government for scarce resources.

"This \$7 million cut in State operating assistance, if approved, could force the County to raise bus fares and eliminate all Freeway Flyers (including service to Summerfest and State Fair), late night and early morning service, and numerous route segments. A reduction in paratransit services would remove transit access for individuals with disabilities in Milwaukee County's southern suburbs and north shore communities," Chairman Holloway said. "We've been asking for dedicated funding for years. After serving as County Executive for more than eight years, Governor Walker is well aware of this need. But, instead of protecting mass transit in the transportation fund, he is removing it. Mass transit is a form of transportation, so why can't it be protected, too?"

"This budget provision sends the wrong message at the wrong time. Our residents depend on transit, and this will hurt access to jobs for thousands of individuals," said Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairman of the County Board's Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee. "In November 2008, County voters endorsed dedicated funding for mass transit in Milwaukee County. Because the State has not yet granted us the authority to carry out the voters' wishes, we need this State funding even more. We have no local funding options other than the property tax, and this budget restricts our flexibility there, too."

"Service cuts and fare increases are always our last resort," stated Anita Gulotta-Connelly, MCTS Managing Director, "but with the reduction in State funding and rapidly escalating fuel prices, difficult decisions will be necessary."

"We're losing our ability to connect workers with jobs," Chairman Holloway added. "If the business community still supports transit, then it's time for our business leaders to meet with the Governor and Legislative leaders to inform them of the important role transit plays in the transportation and economic infrastructure of this region."