

December 4, 2007

Secretary Frank Busalacchi
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hills Farms State Transportation Building
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7910

Dear Secretary Busalacchi:

Back in 2000, after the City of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin refused to step forward to serve as the grant public sponsors for an FTA grant to rehabilitate the Milwaukee Amtrak Depot, Milwaukee County agreed to serve as the public sponsor for the much needed FTA grant funds. During the process, Milwaukee County went so far as to request a 90-day extension to March 19, 2001 from the FTA in order to assure that the grant would be executed.

On September 20, 2001, Milwaukee County transferred the FTA grant funds to the State of Wisconsin. State Transportation officials were pleased and couldn't believe that Milwaukee County had successfully received approval for receipt of the FTA funds. The grant award was subsequently executed by the State of Wisconsin on September 21, 2001. This entire effort occurred prior to my election, Mayor Tom Barrett's election or your appointment as Secretary of Transportation. .

Recently the newly named Intermodal Station serving Amtrak, Greyhound Buses and shuttles being operated by the Milwaukee County Transit System was publicly dedicated. This was a significant media event that credited both the State of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee as being responsible for this new facility, but made no mention of the role of Milwaukee County.

This isn't about me, but it is about the important role that Milwaukee County played in ensuring the success of this project. Milwaukee County served as the public sponsor for the nearly \$4 million in FTA grant funds and yet there was no mention of the role Milwaukee County played. It is important that you be made aware that neither my office, nor the members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors were even invited to attend the dedication ceremonies.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive

Cc: Governor Jim Doyle
Mayor Tom Barrett
County Board Chair, Lee Holloway
Milwaukee County Supervisors