

President, Amalgamated Transit Union  
734 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

Dear XXX:

As you know, Milwaukee County faces a very difficult budget challenge. Specifically, we enter the budget process with a \$97.3 million shortfall because of items like the pension system contribution, sick leave payments, health care cost increases, wage increases and cuts in state aid.

To balance the county budget, I asked most departments to submit budget requests with no increase in tax levy funding for 2004. As you know, the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) management submitted a budget that reflects tax levy funding at the 2003 level. Because of increases in wages, health care costs and fuel costs, that requests includes modification of routes, elimination of routes, reduction in services and fare increases.

To avoid reduction of routes, elimination of routes, cuts in services and increases in fares for 2004, I am asking the Governor and the Mayor of Milwaukee to approve a plan that we developed with staff from the MCTS and the Milwaukee County Department of Public Works. The plan would use the \$91.5 million of Interstate Cost Estimate (ICE) Substitute Project Funds for the Marquette Interchange through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The State of Wisconsin would provide a transit capital program for the MCTS for a ten-year period. The program would provide \$9.15 million to the system each year.

A copy of my letter to Transportation Secretary Frank B... is attached for your review. This letter gives you details on our plan.

Once you review these documents, I ask that you join me in working to lobby the Governor and the Mayor to make this plan go through yet this year. If it works, we can save our transit system and help the state with a major transportation challenge.

I look forward to your assistance on this important project.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker  
Milwaukee County Executive

Attachments