



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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***Abele Praises Award of \$12.7 Million in Transit Funding
Funding Will Enable County to Create Express Routes, Maintain Service***

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele praised the announcement today by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation that Milwaukee County has been awarded \$12.7 million in federal funds for new express bus routes. In a statement, Abele said:

“It’s great news for Milwaukee County transit riders that we have been awarded funding to create new express bus routes and allow us to avoid drastic service cuts. Maintaining and improving transit service, which is critical for jobs and education, continues to be one of my highest priorities.”

“The approval of this funding by state, regional and local organizations points to the importance of Milwaukee County’s transit system to southeastern Wisconsin. While this funding will help us avoid cuts over the next two years, I will work toward a long-term solution to the problem of transit funding.”

“I’d like to thank Secretary of Transportation Mark Gottlieb, the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and its advisory committees, which unanimously approved the projects. I look forward to working with Secretary Gottlieb and others on other ways to improve transit in Milwaukee County.”

The county applied for \$15 million of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding left over from the defunct KRM (Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee) commuter rail project. Abele conservatively included \$10 million of the funding in his budget. The county also recently received state approval to reprogram another \$6.4 million in CMAQ funding for a third express route.

The three new express routes will start in 2012, pending approval by the County Board. The routes will run on N. 124th Street and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee along Capitol Drive; from Bayshore Town Center Mall to Mitchell International Airport; and along Fond du Lac Avenue’s Route 23.

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