

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

Inter-office Communication

DATE: 3/17/2023
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: From the Director of the Department of Transportation Requesting Retroactive Authorization to Apply for Federal 5339(b) Grants for Buses & Bus Facilities Competitive Program and 5339(c) Low or No Emissions Grant Program.
FILE TYPE: Action Report

REQUEST

Retroactive Authorization to Apply for Federal 5339(b) Grants for Buses & Bus Facilities Competitive Program and 5339(c) Low or No Emissions Grant Program.

POLICY

Per section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the appropriate county board standing committee prior to applying for discretionary federal or state grants that require a local match.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced on January 27, 2023, the opportunity to apply for \$469 million in competitive grants under the FY 2023 Section 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and \$1.2 billion under the FY 2023 5339(c) Low or No Emission Grant Program. As required by Federal public transportation law, 5339(b) funds will be awarded competitively to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, while 5339(c) funds support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. Grant awards require a minimum 20% local match and applications are due April 13, 2023.

The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation presently intends to request funding for 30 clean diesel buses under the 5339(b) program at an estimated per-unit cost of \$600,000 and funding for ten battery electric buses and two charging units at an estimated per-unit cost of \$1,500,000. The grant amounts to be requested are \$14,400,000 under each of these programs. If approval to apply is granted, and if an award is received, the funding will be used in a future capital budget request depending on the specific needs of the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) at that time.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation recommends retroactive authorization to submit requests to the 5339(b) competitive buses and bus facilities program

and the 5339(c) low-no program for \$14.4 million each for the purchase of up to 30 clean diesel and up to ten battery electric buses (and two chargers).

FISCAL EFFECT

The direct fiscal impact is dependent on the grant amount (if any) that is ultimately awarded. In the event of a full award, the local share requested in the applicable county capital budget would \$3,600,000 for each award. The total requested MCTS capital amounts will not be impacted by this submission because MCTS' needs are independent of whether an award is received.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

Anthony Geiger, Grants Development Manager, MCDOT Director's Office

APPROVED BY:

Donna Brown-Martin

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution/Ordinance, Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk