



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DAVID CROWLEY

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Honorable members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors—

I am returning unsigned to your body File Number 23-839, “Supporting the recommendations of the MCTS Transit Safety and Security Task Force and encouraging the implementation of new security policies and practices.”

While I agree, as we all do, on the need to do our best to ensure both our transit riders and operators feel safe while utilizing the Milwaukee County Transit System, I do not agree with the proposal contained within the resolution. Rather, I urge you to support and adopt the solution included in my 2024 Recommended Budget.

It is no secret that MCTS has faced and continues to face, the largest budget gaps in Milwaukee County. While *Wisconsin Act 12* freed up revenue to address some of these concerns, the proposal as contained within File No. 23-839 would threaten the modest gains we have made toward addressing the fiscal sustainability of MCTS and therefore threatens our ability to maintain routes. Transportation remains on a fiscal cliff. Cutting routes threatens both the livelihoods and safety of our residents who depend on the transit system the most.

The approach proposed in my Recommended Budget will increase safety for passengers and operators, while also protecting the sustainability of our public transit system as a whole. Increasing the amount, frequency, and visibility of our current transit security agents will help address the concerns raised by the riders and operators who took the time to make their voices heard through their attendance at committee meetings and the Transit Safety and Security Task Force. I have heard them. We are ready and willing to make investments into the security of our bus routes at a cost that does not imperil the transportation lifeline that is our Milwaukee County Transit System.

I have chosen not to veto this resolution because we share the same goal – the safety and security of all who utilize and interact with our transit system. I want to sincerely thank the Co-Chairs of the Task Force, as well as the resolution’s authors. I applaud you for taking the time to craft innovative strategies to address our shared goal. I urge the authors of this resolution, as well as all Supervisors, to support the 2024 Recommended Budget and enact a proven, fiscally-sound strategy to achieve our goal of keeping our riders and operators safe.

Sincerely,

David C. Crowley
Milwaukee County Executive