

# 2023 Budget Request

Department of Transportation:  
Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS)  
August 16, 2022



# 2023 Department Budget

- Focus this year will be our major projects:
  - East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route scheduled for June 2023
  - Battery Electric Buses (BEB's) – 15
  - WisGo fare collection system rollout starting in February
- Continued reliance on COVID relief funds, and pending structure deficit in 2025



# Service - Paratransit

- No fare increases in 2023
- Re-bid of van services and consolidating into one vendor to create efficiencies with a new contract starting Nov'23. On time pick-ups at 96%. Adding requirement for on time drop-offs.
- Taxi program contract renewal May 2023. Milwaukee County DOT considering suspending service. Some issues:
  - Vendor's ability to meet demand and provide accessible vehicles
  - Federal guidance changes on operator drug testing
  - Funding limitations



# Service – Fixed Route

- No fare increases; new WisGo system will actually lower costs through fare capping
  - GOPass and Reduced fare being combined as rates are the same
  - All rides \$2 and passes being eliminated through fare capping
- Elimination of freeway flyers and summer festival routes approved by Board this past Spring are made permanent
- E-W BRT launch
- N-S BRT studies continue



# Organizational Priorities

- A new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) is being negotiated with the Amalgamated Transit Union Local #998 which will impact our budget for 3 years
- Structural deficits projected in 2025 in excess of \$20M. Planning with Milwaukee County beginning now.
- Continued emphasis on a vibrant transit system critical to our future both internally and externally
- Bus Operator recruitment, retention and training vital to our future. Red Kite training continues for Operators.



# Investing in our Vision

*By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee will be the healthiest County in Wisconsin.*

- The County supports economic growth and competitiveness of the region by providing a strong transit network.
- Investments in transit will also help Milwaukee County realize a future where an individual's race or ability no longer predicts one's success.
- An inclusive and accessible transit network benefits all users.
- The sustainability of transit in the long run is dependent upon a dedicated funding source indexed to inflation, as well as a robust Capital funding program.



# <https://www.ridemcts.com/>

- MCTS Travel Training:  
<https://www.ridemcts.com/how-to-ride/travel-training>
- WisGo Fare collection system:  
<https://www.ridemcts.com/fares-passes/wisgo-fare-collection-system-updates>
- MCTS Paratransit Program (Transit Plus):  
<https://www.ridemcts.com/accessibility/transit-plus>
- E-W BRT: <https://eastwestbrtmke.com/>
- N-S Transit Enhancement Study:  
<https://www.mkenorthsouth.com/>

*For More Information about MCTS, Transit Plus and future plans, check out these links.*





**MILWAUKEE  
COUNTY**