

2024 Budget Request

Department of Transportation:
Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS)
August 8, 2023



2024 Department Budget

- Focus this year will be our major projects:
 - First full year of East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route and WisGo fare collection system. Monitor & Improve.
 - North-South BRT: Engineering, design & environmental review continues, with grant submission in 2025
 - Continue public education on fiscal cliff #savethebus
 - Stabilize paratransit service under single provider & implement customer facing improvements including IVR
- 2024 reflect final usage of COVID relief funds, and pending structure deficit in 2025 of \$21M



Service - Paratransit

- Van service: Continue border-to-border service
 - Consolidating to 1 service provider as of 11/1/2023 operated by TransDev (formerly First Transit)
 - Base fare remains the same
 - Agency fare increasing from \$20.55 to \$35 for those in Managed Care Organizations (MCO's). This brings the cost of service for MCO's closer to the full cost, which is \$42.
- Taxi service: Ending 9/28/23 and transitioning riders to Van service & other appropriate alternatives.



Service – Fixed Route

- No fare increases; new WisGo system will actually lower costs through fare capping
 - GOPass gone, but replaced with Reduced fare, which has the same rates/costs
- Paratransit clients riding Bus: Transition from Transit+ card to new WisGo reduced fare card. Same prices.
- 100% service in place (same as 2023)
- Summerfest flyers piloted in 2023; expect similar or expanded operations in 2024



Organizational Priorities

- Structural deficits projected in 2025 in excess of \$20M. Planning with Milwaukee County beginning now.
- Capital Improvements:
 - 30 new buses
 - Investments in Safety & Accessibility: curb extensions, bus pads & bollards
 - Maintenance workorder system
- 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**