

Chairperson: Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr.
Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228
Research Analyst: Brian Dranzik, 278-5290

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSIT

Wednesday, June 11, 2008 - 9:00 A.M.

Milwaukee County Courthouse - Room 201-B

MINUTES

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

PRESENT: Supervisors Clark, Borkowski, Weishan, Jursik, Larson, Sanfelippo and Mayo (Chair)

Airport -2

1. 08-213 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works, requesting approval of the Environmental Assessment (EA) developed by Mead & Hunt, Inc., for various Runway Safety Area (RSA) improvements at General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) and to forward the Environmental Assessment (EA) to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for it review and approval.

MOTION BY: *(Clark)* Approve. **(Vote 7-0)**

AYES: Clark, Borkowski, Weishan, Jursik, Larson, Sanfelippo and Mayo (Chair) –7

NOES: - 0

EXCUSED: - 0

2. 08-214 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works, requesting authorization to terminate Airport Agreement No. HP-1256 between Milwaukee County and Milwaukee Hangar, LLC for the lease of an aircraft storage hangar.

Appearance:

Barry Bateman, Director, General Mitchell International Airport

There is no new hangar proposed for this sight at this time.

MOTION BY: *(Clark)* Approve. **(Vote 7-0)**

AYES: Clark, Borkowski, Weishan, Jursik, Larson, Sanfelippo and Mayo (Chair) –7

NOES: - 0

EXCUSED:

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Resolutions

3. 08-218 A resolution by Supervisors Jursik, West, Larson and Broderick, requesting the County Executive and the Department of Administrative Services Director to implement this stated policy statement of the County Board by fully funding fixed route transit (excluding paratransit) in the 2009 Budget and no seek transit service reductions or fare increase plans from Milwaukee County Transit either by percentage or by fixed dollar amounts.

Appearances:

George Torres, Director, Transportation and Public Works
Supervisor Patricia Jursik, District 8

Supervisor Jursik told the members she did not include paratransit in her resolution since she is trying to respond to the report by the Public Policy Forum. She is also interested in keeping paratransit's funding stable. This is a policy statement showing the Boards support of transit.

Supervisor Weishan said the resolution doesn't take into account the escalating diesel fuel costs. Additionally, maybe we need to look for more efficient route systems.

Supervisor Clark pointed out that this resolution is similar to resolutions supporting no cuts to the Parks budgets. The County Executive would be forced to cut funding in a different area if this is passed. The Board will, as always, protect the core services of Milwaukee County.

MOTION BY: (Jursik) Approve (Vote 3-4)

AYES: Jursik, Larson and Mayo (Chair) –3

NOES: - Borkowski, Weishan, Sanfelippo and Clark - 4

EXCUSED:

Motion Failed

4. 08-T07 From County Board Staff related to the Public Policy Forum report, a report detailing a 10-year review of Transit service cuts and fare increases.
(Informational unless otherwise directed by the committee.)

Appearance:

Brian Dranzik, County Board Research Analyst

Mr. Dranzik informed the Committee the route history covers a ten-year timeframe. The fare history goes back to 1930. It also identifies grant funding. This information was provided with assistance from the Milwaukee County Transit

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

System. The report reflects the adopted budget, not the County Executive's recommended budget.

Supervisor Sanfelippo commented that on a percentage basis, the gas prices are similar to the fare increases.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

5. 08-217 A resolution by Supervisor Mayo, providing for an advisory referendum on the question of whether the State of Wisconsin should grant Milwaukee County the authority to levy an additional one half of 1% county use and sales tax, the revenues of which will be dedicated to support county transit services commensurate with a decrease in the property tax revenues used for transit.

Appearances:

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., District 7

Supervisor Joseph Rice, District 6

Brian Dranzik, County Board Research Analyst

Supervisor Clark noted that Milwaukee County Transit doesn't necessarily have the highest fare in the nation. Other national communities charge a fare for both ways, whereas in Milwaukee County, a transfer is good for an hour and will allow you to get a different route or a return trip.

Supervisor Jursik offered a friendly amendment on line 48 after the word replacement, insert the words and address concerns related to security, which was accepted by the author of the resolution. She then moved for approval.

Supervisor Clark took over as Chair.

Mr. Dranzik explained the reasoning behind having this item approved this cycle. This lets the resolution go through the veto process, and if approved, it still allows the referendum to appear on the ballot for the November 2008 presidential election.

Supervisor Weishan feels the referendum might be better suited for the spring election. He also requested to lay the item over for one cycle.

Supervisor Rice cautioned the members to look closely at the language and give the details to the public. He feels the property tax guarantee should be reflected as a dollar amount and any reductions in property tax should be clear to constituents.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Supervisor Sanfelippo offered a friendly amendment that was not accepted. He then made a motion to amend the ballot section of the resolution.

MOTION BY: (Weishan) Lay the resolution over for one cycle. **(Vote 3-4)**

AYES: Borkowski, Weishan, Sanfelippo – 3

NOES: - Mayo, Jursik, Larson and Clark (Chair) - 4

Motion failed

MOTION BY: (Sanfelippo) Amend the resolution on line 116, strike out the words “reduce all”, then add the words “replace the portion of” prior to property tax revenues currently used to fund the County’s transit system. **(Vote 1-6)**

AYES: Sanfelippo – 1

NOES: - Mayo, Borkowski, Weishan, Jursik, Larson and Clark (Chair) - 6

Motion failed

MOTION BY: (Jursik) Approve as amended (amend line 48 after the word replacement, insert the words and address concerns related to security.)

(Vote 4-3)

AYES: Mayo, Jursik, Larson, and Clark (Chair) – 4

NOES: - Borkowski, Weishan and Sanfelippo - 3

Transit –3

6. 08-T11 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works and the Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System, a report on new charter service regulations, 49 CFR Part 604. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the committee.)**

Appearance:

Anita Gulotta-Connelly, Managing Director, Milwaukee Transport Services

Ms. Connelly explained the impacts to Milwaukee County based on the new regulations. Due to the new regulations this year, an independent vendor is handling the summer downtown trolley service. Service provided to ethnic festivals is fine under the charter regulations.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

7. 08-T09 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works and the Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System, a report on service modifications to Route 7 (Wisconsin Avenue Shuttle) for the Harley-Davidson 105th Anniversary Celebration. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the committee.)**

Appearance:

Anita Gulotta-Connelly, Managing Director, Milwaukee Transport Services

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Ms. Connelly told the Committee that the festival shuttle would be extended to the Harley Davidson Museum. The fare for this would be \$2 in each direction.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

8. 08-T10 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works and the Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System, a report on "Going Green" a business /education project. **(Informational unless otherwise directed by the committee.)**

Appearance:

Anita Gulotta-Connelly, Managing Director, Milwaukee Transport Services

Supervisor Mayo as Chair.

The Transit System will use some items for marketing from this project.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

Architecture & Engineering –1

9. 07-111 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works, a status report on the
(a) implementation of the Green Print resolution provision within the Department of Transportation and Public Works. **(Also to the Committee on Parks, Energy and Environment.) (Report referred back 05/08 to be revised for 06/08.) (Informational unless otherwise directed by the committee.)**

Appearances:

Greg High, Director, Architecture Engineering and Environmental Services

Julie Esch, County Board Research Analyst

George Torres, Director, Transportation and Public Works

Mr. High gave the Committee some highlights from the report including projects at the Wilson Recreation Center, Coggs Center and the Zoo.

A discussion ensued regarding the position of Director of Sustainability. The Department expects the position to be filled by August. Supervisor Mayo requested a copy of the qualifications for the position.

Supervisor Weishan stressed the need for Milwaukee County to look at alternate energy sources.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Fund Transfers

10. 08-1 A summary of fund transfers being presented to the Finance and Audit Committee. (Informational unless otherwise directed by the committee.)

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

Appointments -2

11. 08-212 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works, appointing Mr. Terry Blue to the position of Deputy Airport Director-Operations/Maintenance.

Appearances:

George Torres, Director, Transportation, Public Works
Terry Blue, Deputy Director Airport-Operations/Maintenance

Mr. Blue has been in the current position for three months and was available for questions.

MOTION BY: (Weishan) Confirm appointment. (Vote 7-0)

AYES: Clark, Borkowski, Weishan, Jursik, Larson, Sanfelippo and Mayo (Chair) –7

NOES: - 0

EXCUSED:

12. 08-211 From the Director, Transportation and Public Works, appointing Mr. Barry Bateman to the position of Airport Director.

Appearances:

George Torres, Director, Transportation, Public Works
Barry Bateman, Director, General Mitchell International Airport

Mr. Bateman responded to comments and questions by the Committee relating to noise mitigation and the South 6th Street re-alignment.

Mr. Bateman has been in this position for 25 years. In that time he has worked under four County Executives, 11 transportation directors, and has seen the airport flourish.

MOTION BY: (Borkowski) Confirm appointment. (Vote 6-1)

AYES: Clark, Borkowski, Weishan, Larson, Sanfelippo and Mayo (Chair) – 6

NOES: - Jursik - 1

EXCUSED:

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

13. 08-T12 A report from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce regarding the future of transit in Milwaukee County. (**Informational unless otherwise directed by the committee.**)

Appearances:

Tim Sheehy, President, Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce (GMAC)

Julia Taylor, President, Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC)

Supervisor Broderick, District 3

Mr. Sheehy speaking as the President of GMAC, wants to work with the County Board, civic leaders and business partners in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha to find a dedicated funding source for transit. It is imperative to get employees to jobs. Their goal is to have funds raised in the community stay there and work together regionally.

Ms. Taylor feels the County Board has done a great job of funding transit. Businesses want to step up to support the transit system and have a united front. There is currently no leadership in Madison to help us reach that goal. She also noted that the Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) first vote dealt with a balance in transit systems, community rail and bus rapid transit.

Supervisor Clark asked if employers are willing to fund routes that would help their employees get to their jobs. Mr. Sheehy said, when courting new businesses to the area, employers expect current transportation systems to get people to their jobs. Talks would stop if funding subsidies were approached.

Multiple Supervisors voiced their skepticism regarding GMAC and GMC now wanting to work with Milwaukee County. Other Supervisors thanked the speakers and are willing to work with them to find a solution.

Supervisor Broderick spoke to the Committee on funding shortfalls due to State mandates and the lack of public corporations paying appropriate taxes to the State of Wisconsin.

The Committee took no action on this informational item.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

This meeting was recorded. Committee files contain copies of the subject reports, communications, resolutions, and ordinances, which may be reviewed upon request to the Chief Committee Clerk. The official copy of these minutes, along with the audio recording of this meeting, are available in the County Board Committee Services Division.

Length of meeting: 9:05 a.m. until approximately 11:00 a.m.

Carol Mueller
Committee Clerk

Staff Present:

Mr. Barry Bateman, Director, General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA)
Mr. George Torres, Director, Transportation, Public Works
Mr. Brian Dranzik, County Board Research Analyst
Ms. Anita Gulotta-Connelly, Managing Director, Milwaukee Transport Services
Mr. Greg High, Director, Architecture Engineering and Environmental Services
Ms. Julie Esch, County Board Research Analyst
Mr. Terry Blue, Deputy Director Airport-Operations/Maintenance

DEADLINE -COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSIT

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

All items for the agenda must be in the Committee Clerk's possession by the end of the business day on Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 278-3937 (TTY), upon receipt of this notice.