



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Milwaukee County

Brian Dranzik • Director
• Highway Commissioner

September 1, 2017

Ms. Lucy Garliauskas
Associate Administrator for Planning & Environment
U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Transit Administration
East Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Garliauskas:

Milwaukee County is requesting that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) include the East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in the Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for fiscal year 2019. In September 2016, the FTA accepted the East-West BRT project into Project Development in pursuit of a FTA Section 5309 Small Starts Grant. This BRT project will connect the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center (MRMC) and downtown Milwaukee, parallel to the east-west corridor served by Interstate Highway (I.H.) 94 in southeastern Wisconsin. Currently, there are more than 12,000 average weekday transit trips in the corridor. The East-West Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) is a BRT route that will run along Wisconsin Avenue and Bluemound Road from the Couture development in downtown Milwaukee through the MRMC in Wauwatosa to the Swan Boulevard Park-and-Ride, Figure 1.

Since entering Project Development, Milwaukee County, the cities of Milwaukee and Wauwatosa; and the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) have identified the portions of the alignment that will operate in dedicated lanes and the portions of the alignment where buses will operate in mixed traffic. In conjunction with the FTA, Milwaukee County has also initiated an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

East-West BRT

Length: 9 miles

Number of Stations: 19

Frequency of Service:

Every 10 minutes (peak)

Every 15 – 30 minutes (off-peak)

Number of BRT Vehicles: 11

Capital Costs: \$ 53.5

Station Area Population: 47,000

Station Area Jobs: 120,000

Key Station Area Demographics:

Zero-Car Households: 4,800 (23%)

Residents below the Poverty Line: 12,700
(26%)

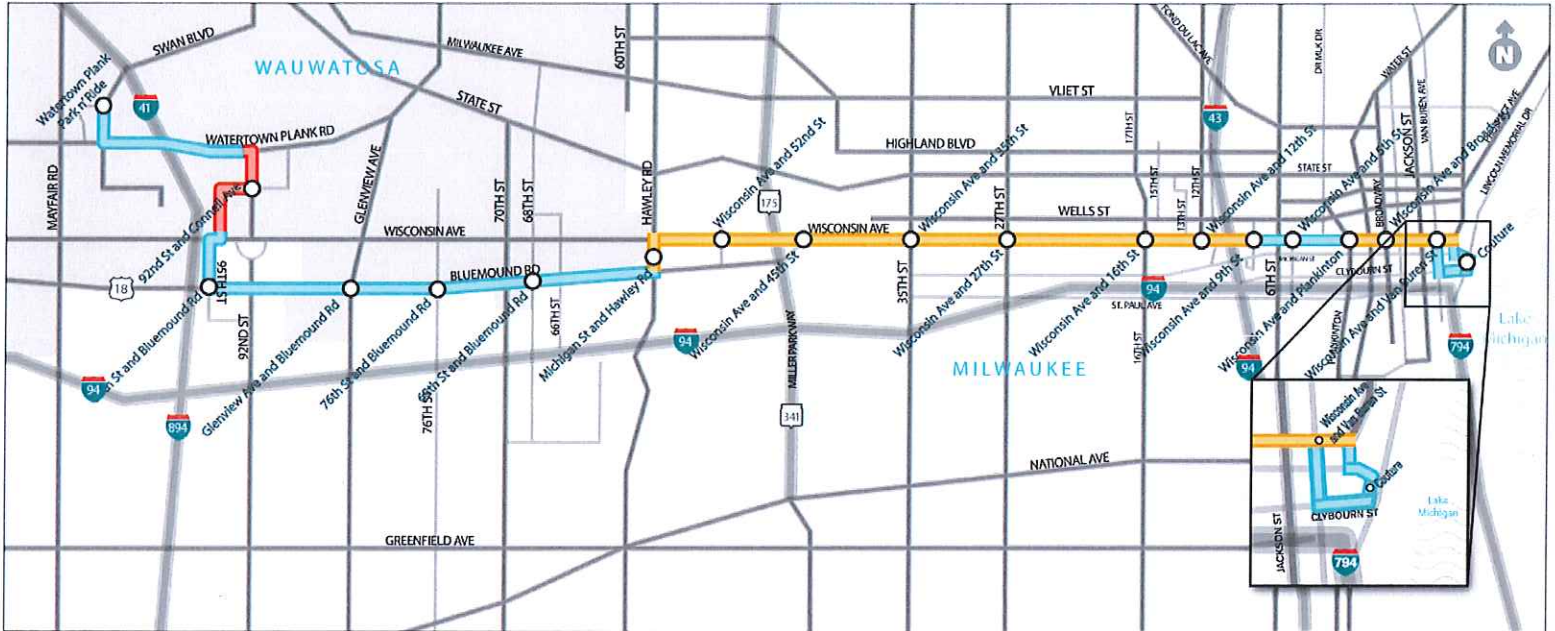
Figure 1. East-West BRT Project

EAST-WEST BRT ALIGNMENT MAP

MILWAUKEE & WAUWATOSA, WI



MILWAUKEE, WI



LEGEND ○ Stations

ALIGNMENT TYPES

█ Side running
Dedicated transit lanes adjacent to traffic lanes (west/north side of road)

█ Right travel lane
Dedicated transit lane in right lane next to parking lane

█ Mixed traffic
Transit vehicle shares lane with other vehicles

The East-West BRT project capital cost estimate is \$50 million (2017 \$) or \$53.5 million in year of expenditure. Milwaukee County is requesting FTA provide \$37.4 million Capital Investment Grant (5309) Small Starts funds for the East-West BRT project. This grant would be matched with other federal, state, and local funds to deliver the East-West BRT project. The table below presents a summary of the anticipated sources of funding to implement the project.

Federal Funds	Amount	Percentage
5309 Capital Investment Grant	\$37.42	70%
5307 Urbanized Formula	\$2.27	4%
Total Federal	\$39.69	74%
WisDOT	\$4.80	9%
Milwaukee County	\$4.45	8%
Milwaukee County Regional Medical Center	\$4.51	8%
Total Non-Federal	\$13.76	26%
Project Costs YOES	\$53.46	100%

Below is a summary of key milestones for the development of the East-West BRT project.

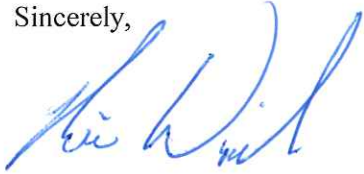
Adoption of LPA	July 2016
Entrance in Small Starts Project Development	September 2016
Request Small Starts funding	September 2017
Finding of No Significant Impact	Anticipated May 2018
Small Starts Grant Agreement	Anticipated March 2019
Start Construction	Anticipated April 2019
Begin Revenue Service	Anticipated 2020

Attached, please find the information necessary to evaluate and rate the East-West BRT project, including the Small Starts templates, Standard Cost Categories Workbook and Financial Plan. The technical approaches and assumptions used to create these materials were developed accordance with the *FTA Reporting Instructions for the Section 5309 Capital Investment Grant Program* and *Final Interim Policy Guidance Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grant Program*. On August 24, 2017, Milwaukee County received confirmation from the FTA that the East-West BRT project, as currently envisioned qualified for Project Justification warrants, as identified in the *Final Interim Policy Guidance Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grant Program*, June 2016. In addition, Milwaukee County believes the project qualifies for the FTA streamlined financial review since Milwaukee County is in good financial condition, as demonstrated by the past three years positive cash balances, reasonable current ratio, and no material findings. Milwaukee County has a responsible plan to secure funding for the local share of projects capital costs, summarized in the table above. Finally, the incremental operating and maintenance costs to the agency as a result of implementing the East-West BRT are anticipated to be less than a million dollars in 2017 dollars, or under one percent of MCTS current annual operating budget.

Also included in this submission is documentation confirming the adoption of the LPA by the impacted jurisdictions; the LPA's inclusion in the fiscally constrained metropolitan transportation plan and letters of support from various stakeholders, businesses, community groups, citizens and elected officials.

We sincerely appreciate the insight and guidance provided by FTA staff in assisting Milwaukee County as it develops the first BRT project in the region. If you have any questions regarding the East-West BRT project or the enclosed application, please do not hesitate to contact me, at 414-257-5952 or email Brian.Dranzik@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

Sincerely,



Brian Dranzik
Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation

Cc: Marisol Simón, FTA Regional Administrator Region 5
Bill Wheeler, Community Planner, FTA Region 5
Ben Owen, Community Planner, FTA Washington, DC
Dan Basile, East-West BRT Project Manager, Milwaukee County Transit System
Daniel Boehm, Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System
Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Bureau of Planning and Economic Development, Wisconsin
Department of Transportation
Brett Wallace, Director, Southeast Region, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Michael Hahn, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission