



February 18, 2020

Governor Evers
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers:

We'd first like to thank you for your work addressing climate change, for beginning to address the state's transit deficit in your last budget, and specifically for creating the \$75 million Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS) program. The MLS program was clearly needed, and as you know, received 1,600 funding applications, for a total of \$1.46 billion in requests. Of those requests, eleven applications, \$24.9 million in total, were specifically public transit related. In order to build on the progress your administration is making regarding climate change and addressing Wisconsin's transit deficit, we urge you to ensure that all eleven of these projects receive funding. The entities that submitted these requests include cities, counties, and townships, and they are geographically diverse, ranging from bus shelters in the City of Superior to buses for Milwaukee County.

Three hundred and nineteen Wisconsinites have signed onto a petition calling for these transit projects to be prioritized. The petition language reads,

"I'm writing today to urge you and the Multimodal Local Supplement Grant Program selection committee to prioritize and fund all of the transit project proposals when making selections for the \$75 million Multimodal Local Supplement Grant Program.

Improving public transportation in Wisconsin promises to improve quality of life in our communities, protect public health, provide mobility to those who are left behind by our current transportation system, promote economic development, and safeguard our shared environment for future generations. Additionally, public transportation projects are essential to meeting carbon emission reduction goals for the state, an express goal of the current administration.

In total, these 11 proposals account for \$24.9 million of the proposals and were proposed by cities, counties and townships. I urge you to prioritize and fund all of these public transit project proposals when allocating the \$75 million grant funding."

Of the nearly 320 people who signed, 74 added additional personal comments. Their names, contact information and personal comments are attached.

Investment in public transportation will unlock access to opportunities for people throughout Wisconsin. Residents in low-income areas and Communities of Color often lack access to

reliable transportation options. Public transportation allows those under the age of sixteen to more freely access jobs, internships, schools and workforce development programs. In many areas, bus stops are poorly maintained or feel unsafe. Addressing these needs through grant investments will boost access to employment, and will help communities break out of cycles of entrenched poverty. Investments in public transit will also help curb the epidemic of unsafe, even deadly behavior occurring on Wisconsin's roads. An increasing number of Wisconsinites, whether people with disabilities or our growing population of seniors, will need options other than a car to get around. We need to start building for that future now. Finally, investing in public transportation improves travel for those who never choose to use it. Improved public transportation reduces congestion and road wear, and ensures a more reliable commute for those who work with us, or for us.

Not only does investment in public transportation increase access to opportunity and provide economic development, it is also essential for meeting our state's carbon emission reduction goals. With the transportation sector being the largest emitter nation-wide, it is essential to increase multi-modal transportation opportunities like walking, biking and mass transit.

Ensuring that all eleven public transportation projects submitted to the MLS program receive funding will help all Wisconsinites and be a meaningful step in combating climate change and addressing our state's transit deficit.

Sincerely,

Cassie Steiner
Campaign Coordinator
Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter

CC: Secretary-designee Craig Thompson