



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors *Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., 1st District*

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Lipscomb Calls for Modernizing County Transit System *Budget Amendment Authorizes Purchase of 11 Battery Electric Buses*

MILWAUKEE – County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., has proposed modernizing Milwaukee County's transit system by purchasing up to 15 battery electric buses and beginning a transition away from fossil fuels. On Thursday the Committee on Finance and Audit unanimously recommended (7-0) including Lipscomb's [proposal](#) in the 2019 county budget.

"Adding battery electric buses begins the transition of modernizing our fleet for the renewable energy future and away from the fossil fuels of the past. Battery electric buses are cleaner and quieter than traditional diesel buses, which is good for riders, other road users, and people who live along bus routes. Electric buses will cost Milwaukee County taxpayers less than diesel buses over their lifetime, and they avoid the unexpected costs associated with the volatility in pricing of diesel fuel," said Lipscomb.

In contrast to the more stable price of electricity, the fluctuation in diesel prices is expensive for Milwaukee County. A one penny increase in diesel prices over one year costs the county \$40,000 in added fuel costs. A one dollar increase costs the county \$4 million.

Lipscomb's amendment would ensure that the 11 buses to be purchased for the Bus Rapid Transit project, currently under development, would be clean electric buses. Four additional buses would be considered for possible use on the Green, Red, or Purple bus routes.

The earliest that the new battery electric buses could be in operation is 2021.

If Lipscomb's amendment is included in the 2019 budget, the first stage of the transition would include purchasing four buses and the necessary charging infrastructure for about \$5 million. Financing would come from issuing general obligation bonds. Future financing could include federal ["Low-No" grant funding](#), which Lipscomb has called for [previously](#).

The public is invited to weigh in on the 2019 Milwaukee County budget at the County Board's [annual public hearing](#) on October 29 at 6:00PM. The public hearing will take place at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Milwaukee.

Final consideration of all proposed budget amendments will take place at the County Board's budget adoption meeting on November 5 at 9:30 a.m.

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