

**AUTHORIZING DANE COUNTY MEMBERSHIP IN THE DANE COUNTY  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

The Wisconsin Legislature passed 2009 Assembly Bill 75, the 2009-2010 state budget, which was signed by Governor James Doyle with amendatory vetoes as 2009 Wisconsin Act 28. The budget bill provides authority for Dane County to create a regional transit authority.

According to the statutory language, the Dane County regional transit authority, a public body corporate and politic and a separate governmental entity, is created if the Dane County Board of Supervisors adopts a resolution authorizing the county to become a member of the authority. If Dane County adopts such a resolution, any municipality located in whole or in part within the Madison metropolitan planning area on January 1, 2003, shall be a member of the authority. Any municipality located in whole or in part within Dane County that is not located in whole or in part within the Madison metropolitan planning area on January 1, 2003, may join the authority if the governing body of the municipality adopts a resolution to join the authority and the board of directors of the authority approves the municipality's joinder.

The jurisdictional area of the Dane County regional transit authority is the geographic area formed by the Madison metropolitan planning area, as defined in 23 USC 134 (b)(1), combined with the territorial boundaries of any other municipalities that join the authority, as authorized by WIS STAT. §66.1039(2)(b)3. The Madison metropolitan planning area is more commonly known as the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board, the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Madison Urban Area. The following municipalities are within the boundaries of the proposed RTA: Cities of Madison, Middleton, Monona, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, Fitchburg; the Villages of Cottage Grove, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Shorewood Hills, and Waunakee; and the Towns of Blooming Grove, Burke, Madison, Middleton, Bristol, Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Dunn, Pleasant Springs, Rutland, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Verona, Westport, and Windsor.

The governance and powers of the RTA as established by the Legislature are set forth in WIS STAT. §§ 66.1039 (3)& (4). The powers and duties of the RTA are vested in its Board of Directors. Directors shall be appointed for 4-year terms. A majority of the board of directors' full authorized membership constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting the authority's business and exercising its powers. Action may be taken by the board of directors upon a vote of a majority of the directors present and voting, unless the bylaws of the authority require a larger number.

The Board of Directors of the Dane County RTA consists of the following members:

1. Two members from the Madison metropolitan planning area, appointed by the county executive and approved by the county board.
2. Two members appointed by the mayor of the city of Madison and approved by the common council.
3. One member appointed by the governor.
4. One member from each city, other than the city of Madison, with a population of more than 15,000 located in Dane County, appointed by the mayor of each such city and approved by the common council.

51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101

5. One member from a village within the jurisdictional area of the authority, or from a city within the jurisdictional area of the authority other than a city from which a member is appointed under 2 or 4 above, appointed by the Dane County Cities and Villages Association. A member appointed under this subdivision may not serve more than one consecutive term. Board membership under this subdivision shall follow a rotating order of succession and every village or city eligible to have a member appointed from that village or city shall have such a member appointed before any village or city has an opportunity to have another member appointed under this subdivision.

In addition to a range of specific powers and duties to enable the RTA to carry out its primary mission - establish, maintain, and operate a comprehensive unified local transportation system primarily for the transportation of persons - the statutes also authorize the RTA to impose a sales tax in the authority's jurisdictional area, by adoption of a resolution by the Board of Directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes Dane County to become a member of the Dane County Regional Transit Authority, thereby creating the Dane County Regional Transit Authority pursuant to s.66.1039 (2) (b) of the Wisconsin Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, by adoption of this resolution and creation of the Dane County Regional Transit Authority, all municipalities within the Madison metropolitan planning area, except those exempted by statute, are hereby members of the regional transit authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appointing authorities are authorized to make appointments as soon as possible to the Board of Directors of the Dane County Regional Transit Authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, after organizing and adopting by-laws, the RTA board shall develop a transit plan in the areas under its jurisdiction, building on existing transit plans for the area and shall consult with the State Department of Transportation on issues related to transit in developing the plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RTA develop language for a referendum to be placed on the ballot in the areas within its jurisdiction to seek voter approval for the imposition of a sales tax to support transit, to be scheduled at a regular election in the RTA area; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor's Office, and to each municipality within Dane County.

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(primary sponsor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_