



**CITY OF MADISON
TRANSIT AND PARKING COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE**

TPC 04.10.13
HAND-OUT
ITEM F.3.

DATE: April 9, 2013
TO: All Legislators
FROM: City of Madison Transit & Parking Commission, Members
SUBJECT: **State Budget Proposal – Transit Funding**

Dear Legislators:

Madison Metro experienced 4.5% annual ridership growth since 2005. In 2012, we provided 14.5 million trips. Our neighboring communities and partners are requesting we provide more service each year to serve growing businesses, seniors, youth and workers. Funding stability and resources to meet the demand is more critical than ever.

We are opposed to the budget provision that removes transit funding from the transportation segregated fund. Funding will become uncertain budget to budget. Moving transit to the general fund to unnecessarily compete with education, health, and employment initiatives is a disservice to the citizens of our community.

In addition, we request that the 10% cut to transit funding in the last budget be restored in the current budget proposal. Metro reduced service, raised fares, and transferred scarce property tax dollars to continue at a time when increased demand has made public transit an economic priority. Given the budget surplus, maintaining the 10% cut is not necessary or economically justified.

Transit systems across the state are in dire need of stable funding sources and increased funding assistance. We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Gary Poulson, Chairperson, Transit & Parking Commission, City of Madison