



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

December 12, 2025

Mr. James Vineau
Streetcar System Manager
Milwaukee Streetcar System
841 N. Broadway Ave.
Milwaukee, W.I. 53202

Dear Mr. Vineau

I am writing regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation's continued focus on ensuring safe travel in Milwaukee. To protect the safety of passengers and workers, and in turn, promote public confidence in transit, the Milwaukee Streetcar System (MSS, a.k.a. The Hop) must ensure a secure and clean environment, reduce crime and fare evasion, and maintain a safe operating system.

Based on the Department's ongoing focus on safety and security and pursuant to its oversight authority, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) directs MSS to provide the information below regarding the agency's practices and expenditures. See FTA Master Agreement Section 3(h)(2)(iii). The key to ensuring effective security for passengers and workers on the MSS system is documenting actions and funding.

For this FTA review of MSS actions, please provide FTA with the following information:

1. MSS actions and plans to reduce crime and fare evasion on the transit system. Please include information about fare evasion trends and previous actions.
2. MSS funds from all sources that are programmed to improve the security of passengers and workers. This should include information about all MSS fiscal year 2025 budgeted and fiscal year 2026 planned funds allocated to reduce crime and fare evasion on the transit system, including a comparison to prior year funding for such expenses. Please also include:
 - a. **Security** – Expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program security capital projects set aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5307(c)(1)(J)(i)).
 - b. **Safety** – Expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program

safety set aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(4)(B)).

- c. **Non-FTA funds** – Information about funds from other Federal government agencies directed to the safety and security of MSS passengers and workers. This should include any Department of Homeland Security funds.

Please provide this information to FTA's Region 5 Administrator, Kelley Brookins, no later than December 22, 2025.

In addition, please note that Federal transit law explicitly permits recipients to use capital grants for capital expenses related to crime prevention and security activities. See 49 U.S.C. § 5321. MSS should target Federal resources expeditiously and appropriately for these eligible activities.

People traveling on MSS to reach their jobs, education, healthcare, and other critical services need to feel secure and travel in a safe environment free from crime, and workers who operate the system need to be assured of a safe operating environment to provide transportation services. The transit riders and workers of Milwaukee deserve nothing less. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter to avoid further consequences, up to and including redirecting or withholding funding.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please reach out or contact Joe DeLorenzo, Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer, at (202) 366-5080 or via email at joseph.delorenzo@dot.gov.

Respectfully,



Marcus J. Molinaro