

Transitway Capital Maintenance Through Non-County Sources

Washington County supports non-county funding sources for capital maintenance of all Metro Transit bus systems operational by 2026. This includes METRO Gold Line, Orange Line, and Red Line. Washington County is ready to work with regional transit stakeholders on a funding solution that does not include county sources.

Issue At-A Glance

- Counties have agreed to fund 50% of the annual operations of transitways in their counties. These agreements have always worked on the principle that the counties will fund portions of the capital and operations costs, but that the transitway is an asset that the Metropolitan Council will own.
- The Metropolitan Council should continue to use the cumulative federal earnings, the council's regional transit capital match, and state funds to fund the ongoing capital maintenance needs of its assets.
- Washington County adopted the maximum 0.5% Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). All available funds from the LOST tax are fully committed for at least the next 50 years, which includes payment on debt service. There are no county funds available to pay capital maintenance for bus systems.



Support

This platform will likely be supported by other counties that host Metro Transit bus systems.

Previous Consideration

The Washington County Board of Commissioners actively opposed a proposal to use county funds for transitway capital maintenance during the 2021 legislative session.

No Action

Any proposal that requires the county to pay for more costs associated with transitways will have an impact on the county's ability to support the development of all transitways and transportation projects.

Financial Implications

If counties are required to fund capital maintenance for transitway projects, the expansion of the METRO system will be greatly hindered.

Contact

Lyssa Leitner | Public Works Planning Director
Washington County Public Works
651-430-4316
lyssa.leitner@co.washington.mn.us