

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY FIRST

**Press contact: Keith R. Schmitz**  
info@milwaukeecountyfirst.com  
(414) 963-0847

## MCF: Beware Gubernatorial Candidates Bearing Transit Promises

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's recommended 2011 budget included a number of severe and [devastating cuts to the transit system](#). Among the cuts were the complete elimination of four regular routes, all of the Freeway Flyer routes, and all of the Summerfest routes. Also included in the recommended budget were a number of route reductions as well as more fare increases. Walker's budget also included a fare increase for the elderly and disabled citizens who rely on paratransit, as well as a possible reduction to those services.

Sensing the quickly growing groundswell of anger at the prospect of even more cuts to a system which had been [cut 20%](#) under his watch, causing tens of thousands of people to be separated from work, Walker's office quickly issued a statement that he would not eliminate any routes. Unfortunately, he [would not commit](#) to refusing to reduction of routes or an increase in fare.

But even Walker's promise not to eliminate routes should be welcome with only guarded optimism. Walker promised that the 2010 County budget would not to eliminate routes, but did so anyway. The only reason that the cuts weren't any more severe is because the Milwaukee County Board understands the importance of our transit system and restored what they could of Walker's cuts.

"Despite study after study showing the importance of mass transit to a region's economic health, and that the best way to improve mass transit would be to increase service and reduce fares, Scott Walker has continuously done the exact opposite. Now our transit system is on the verge of collapse," said Chris Liebenthal, Chair of Milwaukee County First. "Even when the voters of Milwaukee County passed a referendum to increase the sales tax to provide a dedicated funding source for the transit system, Walker actively fought against it, all because of his political ideology and aspirations."

"Unfortunately, when it is his turn to step up and find a viable solution to improve, or even sustain what is left of the transit system, he falls back on his same old failed ways, which have clearly not worked," continued Liebenthal. "Walker needs to change directions now, and find a real solution to the transit problems he has created, before he drives the bus over a cliff, with all of us in it."

*Milwaukee County First is a registered 501(c)4 non-profit organization based in Milwaukee County.*

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY FIRST

###

*Milwaukee County First is a registered 501(c)4 non-profit organization based in Milwaukee County.*

Milwaukee County First  
P.O. Box 14747  
West Allis, WI 53214  
[www.milwaukeecountyfirst.com](http://www.milwaukeecountyfirst.com)

*Milwaukee County First is a registered 501(c)4 non-profit organization based in Milwaukee County.*