

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

May 25, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker



County Executive Walker Announces his SMART Transit Plan at Northwestern Mutual

Yesterday, I announced our SMART (Suburban and Milwaukee Advanced Rapid Transit) plan for buses. Here is a link to the full presentation on this exciting proposal that will improve and upgrade our bus transportation system www.milwaukee.gov/walker

There are a few important differences between our plan and the idea being pushed by the City of Milwaukee:

We proposed two Bus Rapid Transit lines that will cost \$70 million. We want to make sure the system works right before we expand it. We also have plans for additional lines in the future.

The city plan uses all of the \$91.5 million and a local match of \$16.15 million.

We propose improving and upgrading the bus system with new, hybrid buses, fixed lanes, signal controls and other features that will decrease the travel time on our routes by 25%.

(Message from Scott Walker, Cont.)

The blue line would run from the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center to UWM and the green line would run from Bayshore over to 27th Street and down to the Northwestern Mutual campus in Franklin. Both lines would run through areas where large numbers of residents are transit-dependent.

The city plan uses half of the funds (\$52 million) on a Downtown Circulator rail car system that would serve only a 3-mile radius in downtown Milwaukee where most riders would be visitors or corporate office workers. In addition, a new system like the Circulator would compete with the existing bus system for state transit aid.

The SMART proposal is a better plan that is more cost effective and puts the focus on providing a new option for those who rely on transit to quickly get to jobs and job training centers – as well as a way to attract non-riders to the system through the use of technology to upgrade the system.

Scott



“Simon” At The Zoo



“Simon”

The Milwaukee County Zoo got national attention Wednesday night when it was mentioned on the season finale of “American Idol.” Early in the season, Simon Cowell, one of the judges on the show, said that Idol hopeful Kenneth Briggs looked like a bushbaby. In honor of that moment, the show’s producers contacted the Milwaukee County Zoo to ask if the show could adopt the zoo’s resident bushbaby, Boing Boing, and rename him “Simon.” In return, American Idol made a \$1,500 donation to the zoo. The adoption was announced live on the show, which was watched by tens of millions of viewers.

Walker Attends Memorial Day Parades and Events

County Executive Scott Walker will attend a number of events to celebrate Memorial Day.

He will be participating in the Tippecanoe Memorial Day Parade at 9:00am at Burdick Elementary School, Milwaukee. He will also be participating in Milwaukee’s Annual Memorial Day Parade in Downtown Milwaukee starting at 2:00pm. Finally, he will be attending the Memorial Day Ceremony at Wood Cemetery on the VA Grounds.

Walker Attends Milwaukee County “Rodeo”



County Executive Walker with Highway drivers at the “Rodeo”

On Tuesday, County Executive Scott Walker welcomed participants to the 2007 Milwaukee County Highway Safety Rodeo. The event, which was sponsored by the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation, Local 882, and the Milwaukee County Risk Management Department, was an opportunity for Milwaukee County Highway employees to compete for prizes on a timed road course, a vehicle inspection test, and other competitions designed to test drivers’ skill and knowledge. The competition was held at the Milwaukee County Fleet Management Headquarters.

Kite Festival at the Lakefront

The 20th annual Family Kite Festival will be held this Saturday, May 26th and Sunday the 27th from 10:00am to 5:00pm at Veteran’s Park on Milwaukee’s lakefront. The Grand Launch of 500 kites will take place at noon on both days. Kites and food will be available for purchase. For more information, call (414) 257-4575.