



March 11, 2010

## Press Release

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### **Public Support for Fox Cities RTA Grows Urgent Need for Better Transit and Regional Transit Authority**

Twenty-three groups released their joint statement in support of Regional Transit Authorities in the Fox Cities and Greater Green Bay regions. The statement will also be presented today to the Assembly Transportation Committee holding a hearing on four RTA bills.

"We recognize the region as a dynamic one with a bright future," states the joint statement. "Building transportation connections between the Fox Cities and Greater Green Bay Metro areas, Great Lakes shipping, the Austin Straubel International and Outagamie County Regional Airports and the Lake Michigan transportation corridor are essential to this future. Our region needs the ability to create regional transit authorities."

Signing the support statement are a broad number of northeast Wisconsin organizations. They range from NEW North Sustainability Committee, Green Concierge Travel, Valley Transit and Green Bay Metro to Sustainable Green Bay, Green Bay Transit Alliance, researcher Dr. David Littig and all the Leagues of Women Voters from the region.

The importance of the Fox Cities and Brown County to the Lake Michigan transportation and business corridor is highlighted by support from many statewide associations. Signing were the Coalition for Advancing Transit Southeastern Wisconsin Region, Specialized Medical Vehicle Association of Wisconsin, WI Association of Taxicab Owners, Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association, Sierra Club and WISPIRG.

"The future of transit in this region is in jeopardy," stated Joyce McCollum, League of Women Voters of Greater Green Bay. "The 2010 federal census is expected to exceed 200,000 population for Appleton and Green Bay. Future federal transit funds will then only be available for capital purchases but not for transit operations."

Broad public support was expressed at a RTA Forum earlier this week in DePere that drew 100 people. Thirty-one individuals signed the support statement at the Forum for delivery to the Assembly Transportation Committee.

"We need strong leadership from our elected officials and business leaders to say we need an RTA now to meet the needs of residents and businesses in Northeast Wisconsin," said Alan Lawrence, chair of the Fox Valley Group of the Sierra Club. "It is our goal to see bills for any communities seeking RTAs through committee and on to passage this spring."

In the Fox Cities area, over 15 letters of support for forming a Fox Valley Regional Transit Authority have been received from a variety of county, city, town and other local sources. In the Green Bay Metro service area, six resolutions supporting the formation of a Greater Green Bay Regional Transit Authority have been passed by City councils or Village boards.

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