

	ITEM # <u>7-7</u>	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION
	BOARD ACTION Adopted: ☒ For: <u>25</u> Against: <u>1</u> Abstain: <u>0</u> Abs/Excd: <u>4</u> Vote Req: <u>-</u> Other Action: <u>-</u>	Adopted: ☒ For: <u>9</u> Against: <u>0</u> Abstain: <u>0</u> Abs/Excd: <u>0</u>
RESOLUTION # <u>11-7/26</u>		
TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS		

RE: AUTHORIZING STEPS TO DISCONTINUE SMRT BUS SERVICE EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2026

WHEREAS, the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) Bus program has provided regional transportation services to communities across La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe, and Crawford Counties since December 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County serves as the grant administrator and contract holder for the SMRT program, and therefore must absorb any revenue shortfalls that occur; and

WHEREAS, the financial outlook for the SMRT program from 2023 through 2026 shows rising costs increasing from \$629,397 in 2023 to a projected \$747,716 in 2026, along with corresponding increases in the total local match required from all partners from \$150,250 to \$280,216; and

WHEREAS, because of these increases La Crosse County’s projected share of the local contribution, due to its obligation to cover any shortfalls, is estimated to rise from \$30,000 in 2023 to \$227,450 in 2026; and

WHEREAS, in February 2026, La Crosse County Board leadership invited representatives from Vernon, Monroe, and Crawford Counties to meet to review the program’s financial outlook and discuss whether partner counties could increase their contributions to ensure long-term sustainability of the service; and

WHEREAS, since that meeting, Monroe, Vernon, and Crawford Counties have each passed resolutions to discontinue financial participation in the SMRT program, based on the substantial increases in required local funding and current utilization; and

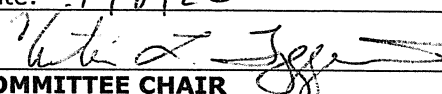
WHEREAS, the decision by all partner counties to discontinue funding would leave La Crosse County primarily responsible for funding a program intended to operate as a multi-county service, and La Crosse County does not intend to assume that role; and

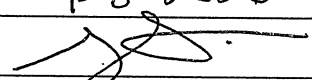
WHEREAS, discontinuation of SMRT service requires compliance with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) requirements, including public hearing procedures, and adherence to contractual obligations with the service provider, Running, Inc.

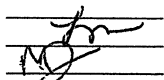
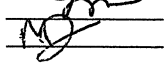
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors authorizes staff to proceed with all steps necessary to discontinue SMRT bus service effective December 31, 2026, including conducting the required public hearing in accordance with Wisconsin Department of Transportation procedures and providing formal notice to the contracted vendor, Running, Inc., consistent with contractual obligations requiring at least 90 days’ notice prior to the end of the service year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff shall provide updates to the Board regarding the discontinuation process as it progresses.

FISCAL NOTE: La Crosse County will no longer be responsible for any of the local match associated with the SMRT service after December 31, 2026. Staff time will be required to complete regulatory, contractual, and asset-disposition steps.

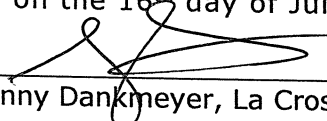
Date: 7/8/26

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 7-8-2026

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.				Requested By: Jane Klekamp Date Requested: June 29, 2026 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director				
Corp. Counsel				
Board Chair				

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 16 Day of July, 2026

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 16th day of July 2026.


Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk