



RESOLUTION # 90-3/10

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 3/17

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 32  
Against: -  
Abs/Excd: 3  
Vote Req: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGING & LONG  
TERM CARE  
COMMITTEE  
ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 7  
Against: -  
Abs/Excd: 1

**RE: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA) TRANSPORTATION**

**WHEREAS**, transportation is a quality of life issue for everyone, especially for those individuals that are elderly or disabled and are no longer able to drive; and,

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County utilizes federal and state transportation funds that are received as a fixed amount from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide transportation for a variety of consumers through the La Crosse County Aging Unit; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Medical Assistance Program (MA) currently pays for the transportation of MA consumers to medical appointments; and,

**WHEREAS**, under a plan proposed by the State Department of Health Services (DHS), the State is sending out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a private vendor to coordinate transportation on a state-wide basis; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is considerable concern among public and private agencies that deal with the transportation needs of the elderly and disabled that there will be a potential shift of transportation funding from non-Medical Assistance sources ( s85.21, s85.20, 5307, 5311 and local government contributions) to pay for the transportation of MA consumers to their medical appointments; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state and federal funding sources limit the county transportation program serving the general elderly and disabled population to charge only a portion of the trip cost (i.e. a 1 way trip that costs \$14.00 may only require a consumer co-payment of \$3.50), while currently MA pays the full cost of a trip; and,

**WHEREAS**, the new program proposed by DHS would eliminate the payment of the full cost of transportation for MA consumers and require the transportation of MA consumers at the \$3.50 rate thus shifting the difference between the co-payment and actual cost of the ride from MA to the non-Medical Assistance transit funding sources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the result of shifting the cost of MA rides to non-MA funding sources will cause the Aging Unit to run out of transportation funds to serve the transportation needs of the elderly and disabled populations by May, 2011 thus eliminating the service or shifting the cost to the county tax levy.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board supports coordination and the use of cost effective methods to provide transportation to MA consumers and its elderly and disabled citizens; however, the State of Wisconsin DHS and DOT must collaborate and ensure that proper safeguards are in place to prevent a shift in transportation funding that would eliminate transportation services to the elderly and disabled populations thus affecting their quality of life.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to Governor Jim Doyle, Senator Kapanke, Representative Schilling, and Representative Huebsch.

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**FISCAL NOTE:** The Aging Unit projects that the annual cost to County taxpayers would range from \$193,000 to \$578,000 to maintain existing transportation services to the elderly and disabled populations in La Crosse County if there is a shift in funding from MA to non-MA transit funding sources.

Date: 3. 8. 2010

Date: 3/8/10

A. Kaden  
**AGING & LONG TERM CARE  
COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Margaret Jordan  
**RECORDING CLERK**

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>50</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: Noreen Kuroski Date Requested: February 26, 2010 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>67</u>	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>87</u>	_____	_____	
Bd. Chair	<u>50</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 18<sup>TH</sup> Day of MARCH, 2010

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Linda A. Stone, 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

Linda A. Stone  
Linda A. Stone, La Crosse County Clerk