

**Title:** Milwaukee County Transit System Collection

**Reference Code:** Mss-0778

**Inclusive Dates:** 1859 – 1984

**Quantity:** 8.4 cu. ft.

**Location:** BV, Sh. 369-372 (8.0 cu. ft.)  
MV, Sh. 058 (0.4 cu. ft.)

**Abstract:** The River and Lake Shore Railway Company was the first transportation utility in Milwaukee, beginning its operation May 30, 1860, with two horse-drawn cars on East Water Street. In 1865 it was taken over by the newly incorporated Milwaukee City Railway Co., which was in business until 1890. During this period, other transport companies, running in various areas of the city, were also formed.

There are differences of opinion as to which company operated the first electric cars and on what street, although the sources seem to agree that it was in 1890. That year the Milwaukee City Railway Company was purchased by the Milwaukee Street Railway Co., which proceeded during the next few years to purchase most of the independent companies. By 1894 they had changed all the cars to electric. Bankrupt by 1896, this company was reorganized and deeded to The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Co. (TMER&L), which had been incorporated on Jan. 29, 1896. In 1938, TMER&L became the Wisconsin Electric Power Co. (WEP), and The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Transport Co. (TMER&T) was formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of WEP.

A group of investors purchased TMER&T in 1952 and formed the Milwaukee & Suburban Transport Co. (M&STC), which lasted 23 years. In 1975 M&STC was taken over by Milwaukee County, becoming the Milwaukee County Transit System.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of annual and special reports, meeting minutes, property and tax documents, clippings, photos and other ephemera. The bulk of the records in this collection are from the Milwaukee & Suburban Transport Co. era, with one box of material from the period prior to that time.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Notes:** The collection was initially processed by Janet Geronime, March 1989, and added to multiple times thereafter.

**Arrangement:**

<b>BOX 1 Historical – prior to 1952</b>	<b>Box #</b>	<b>File #</b>
Historical notes and brief histories (1 folder)	1	

Franchises for street railways. Milwaukee Ordinances 1859-1943 (2 vols.)	1	
Marsh & McLennan. Dept. of Inspection and Engineering. <u>The Milwaukee Electric Railway &amp; Light Co., Wisconsin Gas and Electric Co., and Associates Companies.</u> 1921 (1 vol.)	1	
McClellan Junkersfield, Inc. <u>Report on Transportation in the Milwaukee Metropolitan District to the Transportation Survey Committee of Milwaukee.</u> N.Y., Author 1928. (2 vols.) [Refer to stacks catalogued 388.4 MSSM3 VI & VII.]	1	
TMER&T. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws 1938 (1 folder)	1	
TMER&T (1 folder)	1	
The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Transport Company to First Wisconsin Trust Co., as Trustee. Mortgage and Deed of Trust, Oct. 22, 1938 (1 vol.)	1	
TMER&T. Surplus account adjusted for excess profits tax. 1938-1946 (1 vol)	1	
TMER&T. Prospectus containing invitations for bids for the purchase of the transportation property serving Metropolitan Milwaukee.... May 29, 1947 (1 vol.)	1	
Prospective purchase & sale of Transport property 1947 (1 folder)	1	
Miscellaneous license agreements and permits (1 folder)	1	
DeLeeuw, Cather & Co. <u>Major Trafficways Milwaukee Metropolitan Area.</u> Prepared for the State Highway Com. of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee. Chicago, Author 1949. (1 vol.)	1	
MER & LC Car Operators instruction book 1933	1	
State of Wisconsin Supreme Court: TMER&L vs. Railroad Commission of Wisconsin	1	
TMER&L Mortgage and Deed of Trust, January 1, 1906	1	
Milwaukee Street Railway Companies, Agreement and Plan of Reorganization, May 31, 1895	1	
"A Booklet of Facts on the Proposal that the City Purchase and Acquire the Electric Utility Property," 1936	1	
<b>BOX 2 1952 sale – TMER&amp;T to M&amp;STC</b>	2	
Clippings (1 folder)	2	
W.C. Gilman & Co. Report of Transit Properties and Business of the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Transport Co., April 25, 1952 (1 vol.)	2	
White, Weld & Co. Proposed Sale and Financing. July 14, 1952. 2 copies (1 vol.)	2	
Duff & Phelps. Milwaukee Transport company. Supplement No. 1, Sept. 3, 1952. (Refers to an Aug. 26, 1952, memorandum which is not in this collection) (1 vol.)	2	
Documents relating to sale – Oct. 9, 1952 (1 folder)	2	
Document relating to sale – Dec. 30, 1952 (1 folder)	2	
Suggested list of important papers – Dec. 26, 1952 (1 folder)	2	
Bond purchase contract. 1952 (1 vol.)	2	
<b>BOX 2 M&amp;STC – Documents &amp; Appraisals 1952-1975</b>	2	
Articles of Incorporation and amendments 1952-1959 (1 folder)	2	

By-laws (1 folder)	2	
Olson, Curtis G. Appraisal report: Lands and buildings of Milwaukee & Suburban Transport Co. as of July 1, 1975. Spiegel, Olson & Associates (1 vol.)	2	
Fidelity Appraisal Co. Revised appraisal Milwaukee & Suburban Transport Co., Feb. 17, 1970. (1 vol.)	2	
Organization charts 1955-1971 (1 folder)	2	
<b>BOX 2 M&amp;STC – Minutes</b>	2	
M&STC. Minute Book. Vol. 1 and 2 (10/52-02/56) (1 vol.)	2	
<b>BOX 3 M&amp;STC – Minutes (cont.)</b>	3	
M&STC. Minute Book Vol. 3-8 (03/56-02/56) (1 vol.)	3	
M&STC. Minutes 10/19/72-06/30/75 (1 folder)	3	
M&STC. Board of Directors' minutes and shareholders' minutes – Index. 1953-1975 (1 vol.)	3	
<b>BOX 4 M&amp;STC – Reports, operations, correspondence.</b>	3	
M&STC. Annual Reports. 1953-1956, 1958-1962, 1964-1965. 1967-1974 (19 vols.)	4	
M&STC. Annual Report to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 1965-1974 (10 vols.)	4	
M&STC. Transit par guide sheets, year-to-date. Feb. 1957-Dec. 1971 (1 folder)	4	
M&STC. Special report on certain operational matters, Jan. 6, 1955. W.C. Gilman & Co. (1 vol.)	4	
W.C. Gilman & Co. 1955-1956, 1964-1967 (2 folders)	4	
Public ownership of mass transit facilities. Correspondence 1971-1975 (5 folders)	4	
Traffic-Transit Improvement Report, Transit Co., April 1957	4	
M.J. Clancy (Lobbyist) 1963-1964 (1 folder)	4	
<b>BOX 4 M&amp;STC – Financial Papers</b>	4	
Investigation of Transport Corp. by City of Milwaukee 1958 (1 folder)	4	
M&STC. Financial statements as of Dec. 31, 1958 and as of Dec. 31, 1974 and 1973, together with auditors' certificate. Arthur Andersen & Co. (3 vols.)	4	
M&STC (In Process of Liquidation). Financial statements as of June 30, 1974, together with auditors' certificate. 2 copies (1 vol.)	4	
Cancelled notes, loan agreements, etc., 1961-1962 (1 folder)	4	
Refinancing. First Wisconsin 1964 (1 folder)	4	
<b>BOX 4 ADDENDUM</b>	4 Add	
Programs, Brochures, etc. (1 folder)	4 Add	
Circuit Court Case No. 240-159 City of Milwaukee v. The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Transport Company 1934-1956 (1 folder)	4 Add	
Exhibit to Case No. 240-159: Trackless Trolley Ordinances 1934-1954 and Motor Bus Ordinances & Resolutions 1939-1954 (1 bd. Vol.)	4 Add	

<b>BOX 5 M&amp;STC – Financial papers (cont.)</b>	5	
Mortgage requirements 1953-1961 (1 folder)	5	
M&STC to Harris Trust & Savings Bank and W.H. Milsted, Trustee. Indenture of mortgage, Dec. 30, 1952 (2 copies) (1 vol.)	5	
M&STC to TMER&T. Mortgage Dec. 30, 1952 (2 copies) (1 vol.)	5	
M&STC to TMER&T. Form of secured promissory note and mortgage Dec. 30, 1952 (2 copies) (1 vol.)	5	
First supplemental indenture to First Mortgage 1954-1955 (1 folder)	5	
Second supplemental indenture to First Mortgage 1955-1956 (1 folder)	5	
Supplemental indenture to Second Mortgage 1956-1959 (1 folder)	5	
Bond redemptions 1953-1958 (1 folder)	5	
Interest 1953-1957 (1 folder)	5	
Journal entries 1953, 1958-1963	5	
<b>BOX 5 M&amp;STC – Stock papers</b>	5	
Stocks – General (1 folder)	5	
30,000 shares common stock. J.F. Johnson 1955 (1 folder)	5	
Shareholders of record n.d. (Card file) (1 envelope)	5	
<b>BOX 5 M&amp;STC – Tax papers</b>	5	
Tax papers. 1952-1959 (1 folder)	5	
Corporate balance sheets as adjusted for Federal income tax purposes 1952-1957 (1 vol.)	5	
Transport Co.'s 1953 Federal income tax case 1956 (1 folder)	5	
Wisconsin. Annual report of domestic corporations 1952-1974 (1 folder)	5	
<b>BOX 6 M&amp;STC – Employees</b>	6	
Transport Employes' Mutual Benefit Society. Organizational History 1955 (1 vol.)	6	
EMEA. Reorganization plan 1955 (1 folder)	6	
Wisconsin Dept. of Insurance. Report of examination of the Transport Employes' Mutual Benefit Society 1970-1972 (1 vol.)	6	
T.E.M.B.S. Employes' pension 1957-1975 (8 folders)	6	
General labor agreement between M&STC and the Amalgamated Transit Union, Div. 998 1965-1976 (5 vols.)	6	
<b>BOX 6 – Buses and property</b>	6	
Bus purchase – Unexecuted file 1962 (1 folder)	6	
Bus purchase – Executed file 1962-1966 (1 folder)	6	
Bus fuel curtailment 1973 (1 folder)	6	
Accounting for estimated net gain on abandonment of trackless trolley property (1 folder)	6	
Rights of way (1 folder)	6	
P.R.O.W. on S. 70 <sup>th</sup> St. property (1 folder)	6	
Exchange use of property between M&STC, WEP, and TMER&T – not covered by written agreement (1 folder)	6	
<b>BOX 7 M&amp;STC – Property (cont.)</b>	7	

M&STC. Proof file of abstract examination Oct.-Dec. 1952 (1 vol.)	7	
Gleason, Neal J. Transportation Survey of Proposed National – S. 60 <sup>th</sup> Street – Lincoln Bus Line (Route 65) Extension....Town of Greenfield... n.d. (1 vol.)	7	
Abstract of Greenfield Avenue property 1974 (1 folder)	7	
<b>BOX 7 Milwaukee County Transit System 1975-1979</b>	7	
Public ownership: Appraisal – Milwaukee County (1 folder)	7	
Public ownership: Appraisal – M&STC (1 folder)	7	
M&STC liquidation 1975 (1 folder)	7	
Public ownership: Subsidy program (1 folder)	7	
Public ownership: Taxes 1975 (1 folder)	7	
News clippings 1975-1979 (5 folders)	7	
Milwaukee County Transit System Freeway Flier and commuters material (1 folder) <b>(added 04/05/89 R. Fuhrman/“not found” JAS 03/08/93)</b>	7 Add	
Bus Route Time Tables, 1978-1984, for various numbered routes in the Milwaukee County Transit System	7 Add	
<b>BOX 8 Mid Empire Corporation (the purchasing arm of M&amp;STC)</b>	8	
Minute Books Oct. 1, 1953-June 3, 1975 (2 vols. and 1 folder)	8	
Board of Directors. Meetings & Shareholders’ meetings. Index (1 vol.)	8	
Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws (1 folder)	8	
Financial statements 1953-1964 (2 folders)	8	
Certificates of newly elected officers (1 folder)	8	
Wisconsin Domestic Corporation Annual Reports 1955-1956, 1967-1975 (1 folder)	8	
Annual accounting review 1960-1967, 1973-1974 (1 folder)	8	
Legal – Taxes – General Information 1969-1970 (1 folder)	8	
Important Papers File Index (1 folder)	8	
Mid Empire Corp. Miscellaneous (1 folder)	8	
Mid Empire Electric. Golf carts. 1957 (1 folder)	8	
Mid Empire Corp. Dissolution 1975 (1 folder)	8	
<b>BOX 8 Midland Industries</b>	8	
Board of Directors Minutes 1957-1966 (1 folder)	8	
Miscellaneous financial statements and correspondence 1967-1965 (1 folder)	8	
<b>BOX 8 Midland Transportation Corporation</b>	8	
Miscellaneous 1957-1961 (1 folder)	8	
<b>BOX 8 Transport-Ads of Milwaukee, Inc.</b>	8	
Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws (1 folder)	8	
Board of Directors Minutes 1956-1967 (1 folder)	8	
Miscellaneous correspondence and reports 1955-1967 (7 folders)	8	
Agreements and contracts (1 folder)	8	
Oversized volume of TMER&L forms, passes, tickets, ca. 1920-1940	MV, Sh. 58	
NOTE: See Also MCTS Photo Collection – Box 75 (Library Photo Storage); and oversize photo Nos: 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451a-b-c, 1452a-b-c. (Partial index attached)		