(6) REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY. (a) In this subsection:

1. “Authority” means the regional transit authority.

2. “Region” means the geographic area composed of the counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine.

(b) The counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine shall create a regional transit authority. The governing body of the authority shall consist of the following members:

1. Three members, one from each county in the region, appointed by the county executive of each county and approved by the county board.

2. Three members, one from the most populous city in each county in the region, appointed by the mayor of each such city and approved by the common council.

3. One member from the most populous city in the region, by the governor appointed.

(bm) No action may be taken by the authority unless at least 6 members of the authority’s governing body vote to approve the action.

(c) Notwithstanding s. 59.84 (2), the authority shall be responsible for the coordination of transit and commuter rail programs in the region.

(cg) 1. The authority may impose the fees under subch. XIII of ch. 77.

2. The authority shall retain all revenues received under subd. 1., except those expended as authorized under par. (cr), until the authority has submitted the report specified in par. (e) and action on the report is taken by the legislature.

(cr) The authority may hire staff, conduct studies, and expend funds essential to the preparation of the report specified in par. (e).

(d) The department of transportation or its designee, the southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, or any designee of the governing body of the authority may provide administrative support services to assist the authority in fulfilling its duties.

(dm) Any recipient of state funding for the planning or engineering of a commuter rail project in the region shall periodically report to the authority’s governing body or staff.

(e) By November 15, 2008, the authority shall submit to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), a report on the activities of the authority. The report shall include all of the following:

3. A plan to improve the coordination of expanded mass transit, commuter rail, and passenger rail in the region.

3r. A recommendation on the use of bonding for commuter rail and public transit in the region, and the role of the authority in such bonding.

4g. A plan for the distribution among the mass transit operators in the region of any permanent regional funding specified in subd. 5.

4r. A recommendation as to whether the responsibilities of the authority should be limited to collection and distribution of regional transit funding or should also include operation of transit service.

5. A proposal that specifically identifies a permanent regional funding source to provide local funds for the local portion of operating and capital costs of commuter rail and public transit that are not covered by passenger fares and that considers all potential funding sources.

6. A recommendation on whether the authority should continue in existence after September 30, 2009.