Better transportation for a stronger economy and more vibrant communities

Transit is a cost-effective way to connect people to jobs and businesses, keep our seniors mobile, and cut down on traffic.

It’s time to create a 21st century transportation system that works for everyone in Wisconsin.

By investing in local priorities, from bus service to local roads, state leaders can strengthen our economy and help communities thrive.
Riders’ Realities

When the transit system cut their Saturday routes down, I had to give up my Saturday shifts, and I also couldn’t take any on Sunday since the buses do not run then. The cut in Saturday bus service altered my work week. I had one less day to earn income. No one likes to get less pay.

Ruth Schenk, in-home care provider, Kenosha

I can take the bus to work, but the service ends before my shift does. I have to pay $23 to get home by cab.

William in Waukesha

I am permanently disabled due to serious back injuries and surgeries from an auto accident and have no vehicle to drive. I take the bus to the grocery store, mall, and medical appointments.

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Pat Victory, a visually impaired rider from Waukesha

The route that goes past her church does not run on Sunday and has limited service on Saturday. This prevents her from getting to the church of her choice. She would like to visit friends and relatives in Pewaukee, however, there is no route going from Waukesha to Pewaukee.

Anna Moua, Community Advocacy Committee, chair, Bridge Community Health Clinic, Wausau

I can’t drive for health reasons. I have to take three buses to work every day.

Phillip in Waukesha

Sometimes I spend 10 minutes for blood work at the hospital, and then almost 2 hours to get home from the hospital.

Judy Malek, Wausau

Transit is my primary mode of transportation because of my sight impairment. …I was using the bus to get to Goodwill for an important meeting. The drop off was across the street from Goodwill. There was heavy traffic, and I asked the driver if there was some way to offer me help in getting across the street. A plan came together to ask Bill, a regular bus rider, to get off with me to help me across the street and to the door of my meeting. Bill caught the bus again when it came around and the driver would not charge him for the additional ride as he had helped me to get to my destination safely. Bill was homeless and offered his time to help me out. I often need to rely on some assistance from fellow riders.

Marie McKenna, Oshkosh

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Tim Moser, Appleton

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When bus service is no longer available, the clinic incurs additional expense in order to provide transportation through other contracted arrangements. Approximately one third of the patients we encounter stated that they have transportation difficulty in getting to their medical appointments.

Kathi Zoern, Wausau

Let’s face it—each one of us is only one accident, illness, or major life event away from needing public transportation….Once people know someone who depends on the service or they suddenly need it themselves, it becomes clear how important transit is to the vitality of the community.

The bus is my ride to freedom for my everyday activities and quality of life.

Kathi Zoern, Wausau

When I was released from prison and did my initial probation office visit I asked what bus came out here and was told, “None.” I am not eligible for my driver’s license for years, and I rely on mass transit for transportation. It seems that I am set up to fail. If I don’t make my appointments, I go back to prison, and I’ve had to walk in the streets, no sidewalks, in blizzards to make my appointments.

Gregory Gralewicz, Appleton

The quotes and comments above are a small sample of stories collected from dozens of Wisconsin transit users in 2016. WISDOM volunteers conducted interviews with bus riders across the state to demonstrate the choices and constraints, benefits and challenges that riders experience in their use of local transit systems.

Contact us at GoWISDOMTransit@gmail.com; Visit us www.Facebook.com/GoWISDOMTransportation