

Reliable, Accessible and Affordable Transportation

The key to remaining independent, engaged and connected

Core Member Organizations

- Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)
- Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter
- Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
- Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)
- Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
- Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)
- Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)
- Wisconsin Senior Advocates
- Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA)
- Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is a collaboration of organizations and individuals working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy and improve the quality of life for older people. WAAN advocates for all older adults by educating the community and policy makers on particular issues impacting older adults; mobilizing people on priority issues; and advocating for change.

WAAN State Issue Brief
November 2022

WAAN's Position: Support increased funding for public and specialized transportation and support policies incentivizing coordination of transportation services, encouraging volunteer driving, and authorizing local units of government to raise revenue for transportation services.

Budget Requests

- 1. Increase the capital and operation assistance program funding for specialized transportation (s.85.22) by 20% (\$192,000) to assist with operations, replacement or acquisition of new transit vehicles and expand mobility management services needed to meet our needs as we age. Public transit and specialized transportation are critical infrastructure for the non-driving public, economic growth, and overall quality of life.**
- 2. Restore transit funding for Milwaukee and Madison to 2019-2021 levels, incorporate annual inflationary increases for mass transit assistance and specialized transportation assistance for counties and tribes (s.85.20, s.85.21, and s.85.215 respectively) to ensure we can maintain our existing system, and create and fund a dedicated specialized transportation fund to support voting related transportation needs (DMV, clerk's office, early voting locations, polling sites).**
- 3. Create a dedicated transportation funding source within Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver programs for older adults and adults with disabilities. Increasing targeted transportation funding for HCBS programs would ensure access to contracted transportation services for Manage Care Organizations (MCOs), improving**





MCOs capacity to supply participants (including those living in residential care facilities) with transportation services that meet their full needs as active and independent members of their communities.

Legislative Requests

- 1. Create a state-level Transportation Coordination Council with representation from all state agencies operating, supporting, or using transportation services, as well as representatives from the aging, Veteran, provider, and disability communities.** Coordination of transportation resources expands access and stretches needed resources. WAAN supports incentivizing coordination among state and local transportation systems, including the creation of a statutory Transportation Coordination Council.
- 2. Develop and pass legislation to modify state law to prohibit an insurer from increasing the rating, or denying, nonrenewing, or cancelling an insured solely for acting as a volunteer driver or for reimbursement of actual expenses, including mileage reimbursement.** Volunteer driver programs are an effective use of private resources for the public good. Some volunteer drivers find it difficult to obtain liability insurance because they are transporting others or being reimbursed for travel related expenses. Some insurance agencies classify any mileage reimbursement as compensation as a for-profit Transportation Network Company.
- 3. Develop statutory authority allowing local units of government the ability to raise revenue for transportation service needs.** Local units of government are in dire need of transportation funding to be able to provide sustainable public and specialized transportation. Statutory authority is needed to permit local units of governments, collaboratively, to raise sustainable funds to provide reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation options to all.

Transportation services support the health, well-being, financial security, independence, and community engagement of Wisconsinites who do not drive, as well as advances economic development, employment, and financial security for all Wisconsinites. Specialized transportation funding and coordination:

- supports family caregivers by enabling them to remain employed and reducing lost productivity.
- drives economic growth by increasing livability through infrastructure investment.
- keeps us healthy by providing access to preventive and routine healthcare.
- reduces household costs by providing alternatives to buying and maintaining a personal vehicle.
- promotes independence by increasing access to community resources.
- increases socialization by providing opportunities to engage in the community.



Contact WAAN

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