

# TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY IN WISCONSIN // 2019

## WAMM STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES



### WHO WE ARE

The Wisconsin Association of Mobility Managers (WAMM) is a 501(c)(6) association promoting statewide transportation and mobility issues. WAMM is comprised of Mobility Managers from agencies all over Wisconsin. Mobility Managers coordinate local transit and paratransit services, volunteer driver programs, transportation education initiatives, and more. We need your help to support improvements and advancements pertaining to these issues. Thank you for being an advocate for transportation and mobility in Wisconsin!



### LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING OPTION

Developing transportation systems requires flexibility to create innovative services that can cross municipal and county borders and account for communities of different sizes. Local funding options allow for flexibility to determine the best solutions for each community, with input from the tax base enabling a more efficient, effective and sustainable system.

Transportation needs are often driven by demographics, geography, and employment. With stable and secure funding, systems can plan for future needs, housing development, aging populations, and employer growth instead of responding to the next crisis in funding or system cutbacks.

WAMM supports a local funding mechanism that allows communities to invest in their own multimodal transportation systems.



### PUBLIC AND SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The need for transportation options beyond traditional fixed route transit systems is rapidly expanding in every Wisconsin county and tribal community. Reduced ability to provide basic transportation options will significantly reduce the quality of life of older adults and people with disabilities in Wisconsin, as well as negatively impact economic growth.

85.20 State Urban Mass Transit Operating Assistance program budget has remained flat, while 4 additional Shared-ride Taxi Systems joined Section 85.20 Tier C (rural and shared-ride) funding with no increases to the formula, and small increases to 85.21 County Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance program. Without adequate funding for all public transportation programs, agencies cannot keep up with growing transportation demands.

WAMM supports the 20% increase in specialized transportation funding to counties and the 10% increase in tribal and transit programs as proposed in the Executive Budget.

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### EMPLOYMENT TRANSPORTATION

Lack of transportation is a significant barrier to getting and to keeping jobs for workers. Circumstances related to disability, age, or income level can have significant impact on the ability of unemployed or low-income workers accessing employment. Improving transportation services can improve the economic outcomes among these workers and employers throughout the State of Wisconsin.

WAMM supports increases in WETAP funding to keep up with the demand for employment transportation services.



### MOBILITY MANAGEMENT FUNDING

Mobility management is an innovative approach to managing and delivering coordinated transportation services to customers, including older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes. Through a statewide network of mobility managers, services can be broadly coordinated, avoiding duplication and gaps in coverage while reaching a larger population, and making the best use of each program dollar.



The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program operated through WisDOT utilizes federal Section 5310 and state Section 85.22 funds for capital and operating projects that improve the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. Mobility Managers and mobility management activities are eligible for funding through this program, and annual funding requests exceed the available state and federal funds. Demand is expected to increase as more communities realize the benefit of mobility management.

WAMM supports an increase of \$2.5 million annually in the State section 85.22 program to support Mobility Management functions as outlined in the Transportation Finance & Policy Commission Keep Wisconsin Moving report.