

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY IN WISCONSIN // 2019

WAMM STATE POLICY 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!



STRENGTHEN THE NEMT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND HIRE A THIRD PARTY EXTERNAL ADVOCATE FOR NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NEMT)

Wisconsin's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) is an important service provision for the health of many residents in our state. NEMT has been managed under a statewide brokerage contract since 2011. A 2015 audit of the program raised two issues: 1) the role and function of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), 2) the need for a third party external advocate.

The TAC is an important link between DHS, the NEMT vendor, stakeholders, and consumers. Meetings are infrequent and representation from key stakeholders and user groups is lacking. [WAMM strongly encourages the Department find a way to reengage the council members and create a functioning advisory council with adequate representation from all sectors and meaningful discussion of the NEMT program.](#)



A third party external advocate should be hired to represent and advocate for NEMT participants in an independent and unbiased manner. This external advocate, independent of DHS and the NEMT vendor, would not only hold the broker accountable but also help the state make improvements to the program and ensure quality services for consumers. [WAMM encourages DHS to hire a third party external advocate that is independent, accessible and that can be a true advocate for the member.](#)

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REMOVE BARRIERS FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVER NETWORKS

Volunteer driving programs are critical to the transportation network in Wisconsin. In early 2016, a summit was convened with the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), legislators, program staff that use volunteers, drivers, and the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance. One of the outcomes of that meeting was additional education and clarification about Transportation Network Companies (TNC) exclusionary language to some WI insurers and their local offices. Despite this clarification and education, there continues to be instances where volunteer drivers throughout the state are told they need additional commercial or taxi insurance to drive as a volunteer or their claims are being denied.



There are two changes to Wisconsin statutes needed to allow volunteers to continue to provide this vital public service: 1) Wisconsin State Statute 181.0670 provides civil immunity for volunteers, except if damages arise from the operation of a motor vehicle or other malfeasance, and 2) several states including Maine, Florida, Illinois, and Maryland in 2016 passed a law that prohibits insurers from imposing surcharges, increasing rates or refusing to issue a policy solely because someone is a volunteer driver.

WAMM requests assistance by appropriate legislative and state leaders to ensure these volunteer programs can continue to operate in Wisconsin. This situation has become dire for many areas of the state that use volunteers as the only feasible and economical option for transportation.

COORDINATION COUNCIL

In order to most effectively use private and public transportation resources and respond to cutting edge technology (e.g., autonomous vehicles), advocates and stakeholders recommend the creation of a state-level, interdepartmental council to create a strategic action plan for statewide transportation coordination.

Recommended state-level agencies to participate in this council could include: DHS-Divisions of Public Health and Medicaid and the Tribal Affairs Office, WisDOT, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Workforce Development, Office of Commissioner of Insurance, Wisconsin Economic Development Board and other departments. The council could be chaired by a member of the Governor's staff. The council will recommend actions necessary to create a state action plan for moving Wisconsin's transportation programs forward.

Second, an advisory committee composed of advocates for older adults and individuals with disabilities, private and public transportation providers, regional planners, county, municipal and town representation, veterans' organizations, tribal leaders, and at-large community members should be created to inform the aforementioned council.

WAMM strongly encourages an interdepartmental coordination council and advisory committee be formed to create a vision for mobility in WI.