

# WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF MOBILITY MANAGERS

NEW DIRECTIONS IN TRANSPORTATION  
STATE PRIORITIES 2020



## WAMM SUPPORTS KEY ACTIONS THAT WILL CREATE LASTING CHANGE TO IMPROVE SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION



### INCREASE THE EASE OF BECOMING A VOLUNTEER DRIVER

Enact legislation that prohibits insurers from creating unnecessary **barriers to maintaining personal vehicle insurance for volunteer drivers.**



### BETTER UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES

Form an **Interdepartmental Coordination Council** and **Advisory Committee** to create a unified vision for mobility in WI.



### HELP MOBILITY MANAGERS SERVE THOSE NEEDING TRANSPORTATION

**Increase funding** for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Program (85.22).

# **INCREASE THE EASE OF BECOMING A VOLUNTEER DRIVER**

## **THE SITUATION**

There are over 60 volunteer driving programs in WI which are critical to the transportation network for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income workers. Several programs continue to report issues with volunteer drivers gaining and keeping vehicle insurance coverage. Volunteers are still being told that due to their volunteer driving activities they are being classified the same as the profit-making Transportation Network Companies or livery services and require more costly insurance.

Many of our most vulnerable citizens rely on the goodness of volunteers to access medical services, buy necessities, and remain employed and active in the community. Continuing insurance issues faced by volunteer drivers illustrate the need for the legislature to intervene and alleviate barriers to becoming a volunteer driver.

## **THE FIX**

WAMM requests legislation be enacted to prohibit insurers from imposing surcharges, increasing rates, or refusing to issue a policy solely because someone is a volunteer driver. The situation has become dire for many areas of the state where volunteers are the only feasible and economical option for transportation.

# **BETTER UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES**

## **THE SITUATION**

The demand for transportation far exceeds the available resources, especially in rural areas. It will be important to create and maintain an equitable network and access to this network no matter where in the state someone lives, how much they can afford to pay, and what services they need and can access. The goal is to expand service through complimentary services, not replacement. In order to most effectively use private and public transportation resources and respond to cutting edge technology, advocates and stakeholders recommend the creation of a state-level, inter-departmental council to create a strategic action plan for statewide transportation coordination and to respond to new, innovative and technology-based opportunities.

## **THE FIX**

Form an Interdepartmental Coordination Council to create a strategic action plan for statewide transportation coordination and to respond to new, innovative, and technology-based opportunities. 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 council.

# **HELP MOBILITY MANAGERS SERVE THOSE NEEDING TRANSPORTATION**

## **THE SITUATION**

Specialized transportation funding for Wisconsin older adults and people with disabilities is critical as the number of people needing these services grows. Those living in rural areas often face great challenges getting places due to lack of public transportation and long distances between destinations.

An important funding source is the State 85.22 specialized assistance program that supplements federal funding to aid eligible applicants with transit capital, mobility management, and operating projects that serve seniors and individuals with disabilities. The funding level of the 85.22 specialized transportation assistance programs has remained flat at \$912,700 annually for the last 10 years, despite growing demand.

Funding requests for operating expenses and to replace vehicles that are beyond their useful life exceed the grant opportunities Wisconsin Department of Transportation can award annually. The reduced ability to provide basic transportation options will significantly impact the quality of life for older adults and people with disabilities. Mobility Management programs have been improving the management and delivery of coordinated transportation services to customers, including older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes.

## **THE FIX**

Support an increase of \$2.5 million in funding to the State section 85.22 program.