

TRANSPORTATION



ALTERNATIVES & ACCESSIBILITY

Strengthen transit and transportation services to ensure that people with disabilities across the state can get where they need to go. Transportation is among the greatest challenges for people who are blind/visually impaired. Because they are transit dependent, access to employment, health care, and social connections are limited due to inadequate transportation services. State transit aid is \$4.8 million below the 2011 funding level and has led to a decline in services and increased fares.

BUDGET ITEMS

- Undertake a comprehensive needs assessment of the state's transportation system, including multi-modal transportation, transit, rail, highways, pedestrian needs with an emphasis on inter-community connections. Create a comprehensive statewide transportation plan based on the data and funding needs derived from this study.
- Create a statewide, shared-use transportation coordinating council to create a strategic plan to increase transportation coordination across the state and between state agencies. Increasing inter-agency and inter-program efficiencies would create savings for the state.



- Make a two-year commitment to the Department of Transportation's Non-Driver Advisory Council and provide funding for the Council to implement their recommendations.
- Provide \$200,000 to the Department of Transportation to administer a grant program designed to help municipalities install accessible pedestrian signals.
- Increase the number of Department of Motor Vehicle sites and increase hours of operations to better ensure that people who are blind and visually impaired have access to obtaining the required state identification card for voting and other legal activities.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

- Increased public awareness of Wisconsin's Pedestrian Right of Way laws is needed to ensure that drivers understand the White Cane Law and the rights of pedestrians with visual impairments are protected. WCBVI supports the following:

- o Increased education and public awareness regarding drivers' responsibilities to enhance the safety of persons using white canes or guide dogs
- o Increased enforcement of pedestrian safety laws to guarantee the safety of pedestrians who are visually impaired or blind.
- o Increase penalties for the violation of laws designed to enhance the safety of pedestrians who are visually impaired or blind.

40% of Survival Coalition of WI Disability Groups survey respondents said they **do not have access to public transportation** in their communities.

"Public transportation in our county is lacking. There is nothing after workday hours or on weekends. I am not able to go out for dinner, to church or to my kids' school activities without help/rides from others. It is very frustrating."

-Survey Participant