

TRANSPORTATION



Wisconsin Council of the
Blind & Visually Impaired

Getting where you need to go reliably and on schedule is key to sustainable employment, health care access and independent shopping for necessities. Reliable transportation can also link you to family and friends.

About 31 percent of Wisconsin residents are nondrivers; yet their transportation needs are rarely prioritized in economic development and public policy decisions. About 70 percent of people with vision loss are unemployed, and a comprehensive public transportation system is critical to the ability to get and keep a job.

BUDGET ITEMS

Mass, Para- and Specialized Transit:

- Increase funding for mass transit and paratransit by 10% each.
- Provide an increase of \$150,000 in the first year of the budget and \$300,000 in the second year for specialized transit for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Create and fund a dedicated specialized transportation fund to support voting related transportation needs (e.g., DMV, clerk's office, early voting locations, polling sites).

Grants for Pedestrian Signals: Provide \$200,000 to the WisDOT to administer a grant program designed to help municipalities install accessible pedestrian signals.

Funding for DMV Customer Service Centers: WCBVI supports sufficient funding to expand service hours and create more mobile service centers to reduce barriers nondrivers face in obtaining State ID for purposes of voting and other services requiring proof of identity.

Funding for WiNDAC: Increase funding to allow the state to support additional mobility manager requests and provide one-time funding to further review issues faced by non-drivers in Wisconsin.

Complete Streets: Restore roadway design considerations in state law that support non-motorist infrastructure known as Complete Streets, empowering local communities to safely integrate all modes of transportation.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Streamline Agency Services: Direct state agencies to evaluate which services can be provided online or virtually instead of requiring a trip to an in-person office. This will create efficiencies within government programs and increase access for Wisconsin's estimated 1.8 million non-drivers.

Insurance Coverage: Change insurance coverage rules that treat volunteer drivers as commercial operators, creating additional expenses that discourage volunteering.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

WCBVI supports these legislative priorities:

- Expand cross-municipal transportation options.
- Increase awareness of Wisconsin's pedestrian right-of-way laws and other driver responsibilities that enhance the safety of pedestrians, including those who are visually impaired and use a white cane or guide dog.
- Increased enforcement of pedestrian safety laws to guarantee the safety of pedestrians who are visually impaired or blind.

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