

# Better transportation for a stronger economy and more vibrant communities

Transit is a cost-effective way to connect people to jobs and businesses, keep our seniors mobile, and cut down on traffic.

## The bus stops here.....



### Local Employers

"I ride my bike – all year long – 8 blocks from my apartment to the transit center, put the bike on the bus, then bike another 1.8 miles from the Technical College to my workplace. If it wasn't for transit, I couldn't find employment. Transit is the key for work. I have my dream job now but I couldn't get there if not for the bus."

**David Sandberg, Waukesha**



### School

"I rely on the bus. As a college student with a part-time job and no car, it helps me a lot." Josh must take transit everywhere—to FVTC, to work, to shopping, events, and to see friends. Without transit, Josh would have to work more and spend less time on education.

**Josh Buckley, Fox Valley Technical College student, Appleton**



### Local Businesses

"Because I'm visually impaired, I cannot drive a car. I use the bus to do needed shopping, visit my friends, do my banking, and to meet many other needs."

**Angie Hutchings, Kenosha**

**Pat Victory of Waukesha** had to give up her driver's license due to a deteriorating eyesight condition. Pat relies on the bus for grocery shopping, beauty parlor, doctor visits, restaurants, visiting friends, and church.

### Medical & Dental Clinics

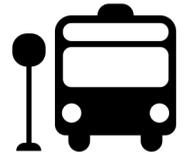
"The transit system makes it possible for patients with impairments that make driving impossible or those without vehicles to reach my office for dental care."

**Dr. Jennifer Havel, dentist, Wausau**



### Community Events

**Edgar High School special education teachers, Nicole Daul & Brook Allen** teach their students how to use the transit system and say, "Originally, our students always thought they would remain in Edgar. This opportunity gave them confidence to move outside their comfort zone. They now see endless possibilities to engage in community events in Wausau. This is a key to their independence!"



### Places of Worship



### Recreation, Arts & Entertainment

"My life experiences are limited to the areas that are served by transit."

**Marie McKenna, Oshkosh**



### Jobs

The bus system is the only means of connecting some people from the city to jobs outside of it. The bus is a vital system for Milwaukee County.

**Christopher Moore, Milwaukee**

It's time to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system that works for everyone in Wisconsin.

By investing in local priorities, from bus service to local roads, state leaders can strengthen our economy and help communities thrive.

# Riders' Realities

When the transit system cut their Saturday routes down, I had to give up my Saturday shifts, and I also couldn't take any on Sunday since the buses do not run then. The cut in Saturday bus service altered my work week. I had one less day to earn income. No one likes to get less pay.

**Ruth Schenk, in-home care provider, Kenosha**

When bus service is no longer available, the clinic incurs additional expense in order to provide transportation through other contracted arrangements. Approximately one third of the patients we encounter stated that they have transportation difficulty in getting to their medical appointments.

**Anna Moua, Community Advocacy Committee, chair, Bridge Community Health Clinic, Wausau**

I can take the bus to work, but the service ends before my shift does. I have to pay \$23 to get home by cab.

**William in Waukesha**

I can't drive for health reasons. I have to take three buses to work every day.

**Phillip in Waukesha**

Transit is my primary mode of transportation because of my sight impairment. ....I was using the bus to get to Goodwill for an important meeting. The drop off was across the street from Goodwill. There was heavy traffic, and I asked the driver if there was some way to offer me help in getting across the street. A plan came together to ask Bill, a regular bus rider, to get off with me to help me across the street and to the door of my meeting. Bill caught the bus again when it came around and the driver would not charge him for the additional ride as he had helped me to get to my destination safely. *Bill was homeless and offered his time to help me out.* I often need to rely on some assistance from fellow riders.

I am permanently disabled due to serious back injuries and surgeries from an auto accident and have no vehicle to drive. I take the bus to the grocery store, mall, and medical appointments.

**Tim Moser, Appleton**

Sometimes I spend 10 minutes for blood work at the hospital, and then almost 2 hours to get home from the hospital.

**Judy Malek, Wausau**

**Marie McKenna, Oshkosh**

**Pat Victory, a visually impaired rider from Waukesha**

The route that goes past her church does not run on Sunday and has limited service on Saturday. This prevents her from getting to the church of her choice. She would like to visit friends and relatives in Pewaukee, however, there is no route going from Waukesha to Pewaukee.

Let's face it—each one of us is only one accident, illness, or major life event away from needing public transportation....Once people know someone who depends on the service or they suddenly need it themselves, it becomes clear how important transit is to the vitality of the community.

**The bus is my ride to freedom for my everyday activities and quality of life.**

**Kathi Zoern, Wausau**

When I was released from prison and did my initial probation office visit I asked what bus came out here and was told, "None." I am not eligible for my driver's license for years, and I rely on mass transit for transportation. It seems that I am set up to fail. If I don't make my appointments, I go back to prison, and I've had to walk in the streets, no sidewalks, in blizzards to make my appointments.

**Gregory Gralewicz, Appleton**



The quotes and comments above are a small sample of stories collected from dozens of Wisconsin transit users in 2016. WISDOM volunteers conducted interviews with bus riders across the state to demonstrate the choices and constraints, benefits and challenges that riders experience in their use of local transit systems.

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