

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Incentivize multi-modal transportation through advocacy, policy, and grant funding.

The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin Request

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation advocate and support incentivizing automotive - alternative multi modal transportation systems.

Background

Public Health: WI is ranked 16th highest in the nation for obesity. 65% of adults are overweight (27 % are obese). Of the four northern counties, Douglas County has consistently measured the highest in obesity since 2006 (Wisconsin.gov).

Northern WI is one the fastest aging populations; In 2010 Douglas County was composed of 14.4% of individuals over 65, in 2040 it's projected to be 24.6 percent (2018).

It's critical to diversify our antiquated transportation systems to not only meet our changing mobility needs but to adapt to a more sustainable, cost-effective multi-modal municipalities that can attract and develop young professionals that can take the lead in economic stewardship.

State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (2016) "In rural areas, transportation services for individuals who are elderly and/or disabled are usually only available Monday through Friday during the 8 AM to 5 PM business day...this leaves individuals with disabilities limited opportunities to shop, attend religious services or participate in social activities in the evenings and on the weekends."

Department Health and Human Services (2018) reports more than 33% of Douglas county residents have a disability, which is higher than the state average. In conjunction with non-impaired individuals who rely on night and weekend shifts, current bus schedules are least capable of serving the people most likely rely on public transit services.

Northern WI has unique rural considerations which lend to our disproportional vulnerability and transit dependent culture while many of our residents struggle with aging, poverty, and isolation.

Support can be though grants to support bike share systems, improved route design, passenger counts, legislation that promotes parking maximums and increase funding to expand public transit opportunities and operations.