



Who are the people impacted by transportation?

Currently, one-third of Wisconsinites are non-drivers. The number of non-drivers is projected to increase. Non-drivers include people with disabilities, older adults, low-income workers and students who do not have access or cannot afford a vehicle, people who prefer not to drive, and people without a driver's license.

Why is transportation important?

Non-drivers are not able to get where they need to go on their schedule. Lack of affordable, reliable transportation options impacts workforce mobility, economic development, people's job choices, housing options, medical care, and ability to independently conduct personal business.

Lack of transportation options is a barrier for many direct care workers who provide daily care and support for people with disabilities and older adults. Direct care workers are low-income and must commute to client homes. Many have unreliable access or no access to a personal vehicle or must rely on public transportation. When transportation falls through these workers may be late or miss shifts or have to refuse to serve clients because they cannot reliably get to them.

Social isolation is a serious and growing problem that impacts health and mental health. Transportation is critical to keep people engaged with their community and maintain social networks.

What are major concerns related to transportation?

The non-driver population is growing. [Modeling tools](#) indicate there is a gap between non-drivers are, where they need to go, and few transportation options that connect.

Survival Coalition conducted a [statewide survey](#) of more than 500 respondents in 2018 and found the following:

- Transportation services don't go where riders need to go, including medical facilities, work, businesses, and government buildings.
- There are few affordable transportation options that let non-drivers easily get to regional destinations on their schedule.
- Transportation is not available at times needed.
- Transportation is unreliable, scheduled rides are late, do not come, or get cancelled.
- There is not enough transportation available to meet all the transportation needs of riders.
- Rides must be scheduled too far in advance, cannot accommodate changes to rider's schedule or needs.
- Transportation programs are restricted to specific populations or do not allow people to use the same ride to accomplish multiple tasks.



TRANSPORTATION

The [Wisconsin DOT Non-Driver Advisory Committee](#), established in 2020, has been tasked with finding ways to improve non-driver transportation.

How is transportation funded?

Multiple federal and state programs support transportation services used by non-drivers, but they all come with statutory parameters – age, income, disability status, geographic area – limiting what populations are served. These limiting factors creates a fragmented transportation system, in some cases, working against each other.

