



### **Who are the people impacted by transportation?**

Non-drivers include people with physical, mental health, or intellectual/developmental disabilities, older adults, and low-income workers who cannot afford to maintain personal vehicles, students, and adults who prefer not to drive.

Impacts of inadequate transportation extend beyond non-drivers themselves. Without access to adequate transportation, non-drivers must depend on family and friends and often miss out on needed medical care, social interactions, and sustainable employment.

### **Why is transportation important?**

Non-drivers are not able to get where they need to go on their schedule; transportation barriers affect large segments of the population across Wisconsin and is the number one concern of people with disabilities.

Lack of affordable and accessible transportation impacts people's job choices, housing options, medical care, and ability to independently conduct personal business. Social isolation is a serious and growing problem; transportation is critical to keep people engaged with their community and maintain social networks. Few or no transportation options limit workforce mobility and economic development.

Many direct care workers who provide daily care and support for people with disabilities and older adults are low-income and rely on public transportation to commute to client homes.

### **What are major concerns related to transportation?**

People with disabilities and older adults have identified consistent transportation barriers and challenges. In a 2018 statewide survey of more than 500 respondents the following common themes were identified:

- ⇒ Transportation program is for a specific population or is a one-ride/one purpose program that does not allow people to use the same ride to accomplish multiple tasks,
- ⇒ Transportation services don't go where riders need to go, including key medical/governmental/business destination, between towns, or across county lines
- ⇒ Transportation is not available at times needed
- ⇒ Transportation is unreliable, scheduled rides are late, do not come, or get cancelled
- ⇒ The overall capacity to provide transportation is inadequate 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

## How is transportation funded?

There are several federal and state programs that provide grants to help support transportation services, 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.

## How has transportation been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Many non-drivers are essential workers and rely on public transit to get to their jobs. Likewise, non-drivers who need to hospitals, pharmacies, grocery stores and other essential services depend on public transportation.

The pandemic has caused public transportation to quickly implement ways to maintain social distancing and sanitation, but it has also demonstrated its necessity. Without it, non-driving populations and essential workers would be stranded.

