

# Reliable, Accessible, and Affordable Transportation:

The key to remaining independent, engaged, and connected.

## Core Member Organizations

- Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)
- Alzheimer’s Association Wisconsin Chapter
- Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
- Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)
- Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
- Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)
- Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)
- Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA)
- Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin’s older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

**WAAN State Issue Brief**  
 February 2021

**WAAN’s Position: Support increased funding for transportation and support policies incentivizing coordination of transportation services, encouraging volunteer driving, and authorizing local units of government to raise revenue for transportation.**

**Reliable, accessible and affordable** transportation is a frequent concern of older adults across the state. Wisconsin’s progress advancing home and community-based care, ending isolation, improving health and nutrition, and promoting employment across the lifespan is limited without access to transportation that meets the needs and recognizes the choices of its citizens.

Transportation programs are vital to support the health, well-being, financial security, independence, and community engagement of Wisconsinites who do not drive.



1. Public transit and specialized transportation are critical infrastructure for the non-driving public, economic growth, and overall quality of life. **WAAN requests a 20% increase (\$183,000) in capital and operation assistance for specialized transportation (s.85.22) to assist with operations, replacement or acquisition of new transit vehicles and expand mobility management services needed to meet our needs as we age.** The demand for specialized transportation has grown exponentially over the last 20 years while the State specialized transportation funding level has not increased since the 2000-2001 budget. In fact funding levels decreased over that 20-year time frame and have not kept pace with the needs of Wisconsin’s aging population. **We also requests inflationary increases for mass transit assistance and specialized transportation assistance for counties and tribes (s.85.20, s.85.21, and s.85.215 respectively) to ensure we can maintain our existing system while setting the stage for increased funding and capacity in the future.**
2. Coordination of transportation resources expands access and stretches needed resources. **WAAN supports incentivizing coordination among state and local transportation systems, including the creation of a statutory Transportation Coordination Council.** We ask the legislature to create a state-level Transportation Coordination Council with

representation from all state agencies operating, supporting, or using transportation services, as well as representatives from the aging, Veteran, provider, and disability communities.

3. Volunteer driver programs are an effective use of private resources for public good. **WAAN supports legislation to encourage volunteer driving, including the clarification of insurance requirements for volunteer drivers and protections under the Good Samaritan Law.** Some volunteer drivers find it difficult to obtain liability insurance because reimbursements for travel-related expenses may result in insurance classification as a for-profit Transportation Network Company.
4. Local units of government are in dire need of sustainable transportation funding. **WAAN supports statutory authority allowing local units of government the ability to raise revenue for transportation needs.** Statutory authority is needed to permit local units of governments, individually or collaboratively, to raise sustainable funds to provide reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation options to all.

Transportation services advance economic development, employment, and financial security for all Wisconsinites. Specialized transportation funding and coordination:

- support family caregivers: enables caregivers to remain employed, reducing lost productivity
- drive economic growth: increase livability through infrastructure investment
- keep us healthy: provide access to preventive and routine care
- reduce costs: save money by not buying and maintaining a personal vehicle
- promote independence: increase access to community resources
- increase socialization: provide opportunity to engage the community.



## Contact WAAN

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