

Southeastern Wisconsin **Regional Planning Commission**



Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Group Meeting

April 7, 2021

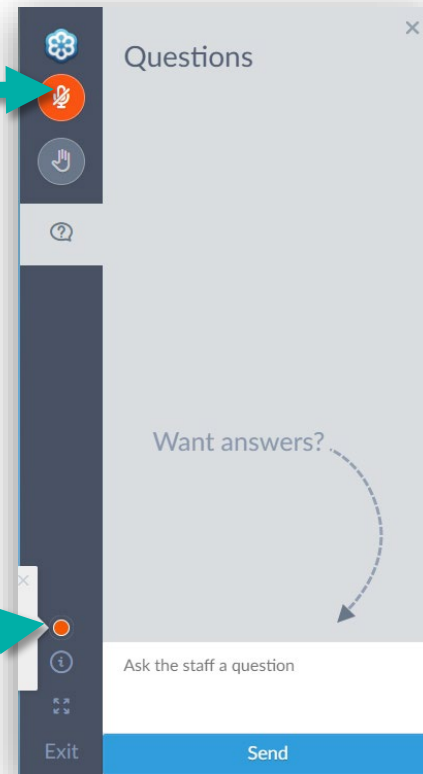
Virtual Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Staff Introductions, and Housekeeping
- Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plans Overview
 - Purpose and Need
 - Summary of 2016 Plans
 - WisDOT Review of funding programs and opportunities
- Overview of Online Survey Questions
 - Question and Answer Session
- Overview of Next Steps



Participants are all in 'Listen Only' mode.

Meeting is being recorded. Recording will be posted on our website and shared via email after the meeting.

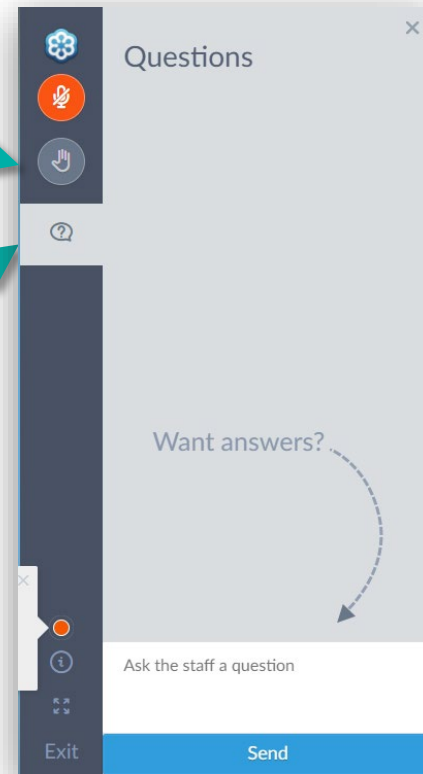


Questions or Comments

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●●●●● Intent of Coordination Planning

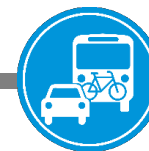
- Framework for improving public transit and human services transportation in each county and the Region
- Assess existing transportation needs and services in each county and identify unmet needs or service gaps
- Focus on strategies that use existing resources to improve access for the Region's residents in a cost-effective manner



●●●●● Federal Requirements

- Required every four years by the Federal transportation funding bill, most recently the FAST Act of December 2015

- Plans must include 4 elements:
 - An assessment of available transportation services
 - An assessment of transportation needs for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and people with low incomes
 - Strategies to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to improve efficiencies in service delivery
 - Priorities for implementing the proposed strategies



●●●●● Federal Requirements

- Federal guidelines specify a wide range of stakeholders must be involved in preparing plans
 - Public and private transportation providers
 - Human services agencies
 - Job centers
 - Advocacy groups
 - Public officials
 - Users of existing transportation services

- Representatives from all stakeholders were invited to participate in this public meeting

- The Coordination Plan helps to ensure funding eligibility for current and future transit projects in all seven counties.



➤ Needs identified Between Counties included:

- Lack of a regional transit authority
- Limited transportation options between counties
- Lack of coordination in the distribution of information related to existing services
- Need to increase public transit and other transit services

➤ Strategies to address the needs Between Counties included:

- Establish a regional transit authority with a dedicated funding source
- Encourage transit agencies to create memorandums of agreement or understanding that create transit connections between counties
- Increase funding for mobility managers to assist them in coordinating transportation services across county lines



- The coordination planning process is mostly conducted by Regional Planning Commission staff:
 - Inviting stakeholders to coordination planning meeting
 - Providing data on population, employment, and existing transit services as background for assessing needs
 - Facilitating discussions on unmet transportation needs for population
 - Helping to identify potential coordination of ideas and strategies
 - Documenting the ideas and strategies
 - Providing support services to each County as it takes action to implement the plan





WisDOT Transit Funding

Public and Specialized Transit Overview

Katie Patterson
WisDOT Transit Lead Worker

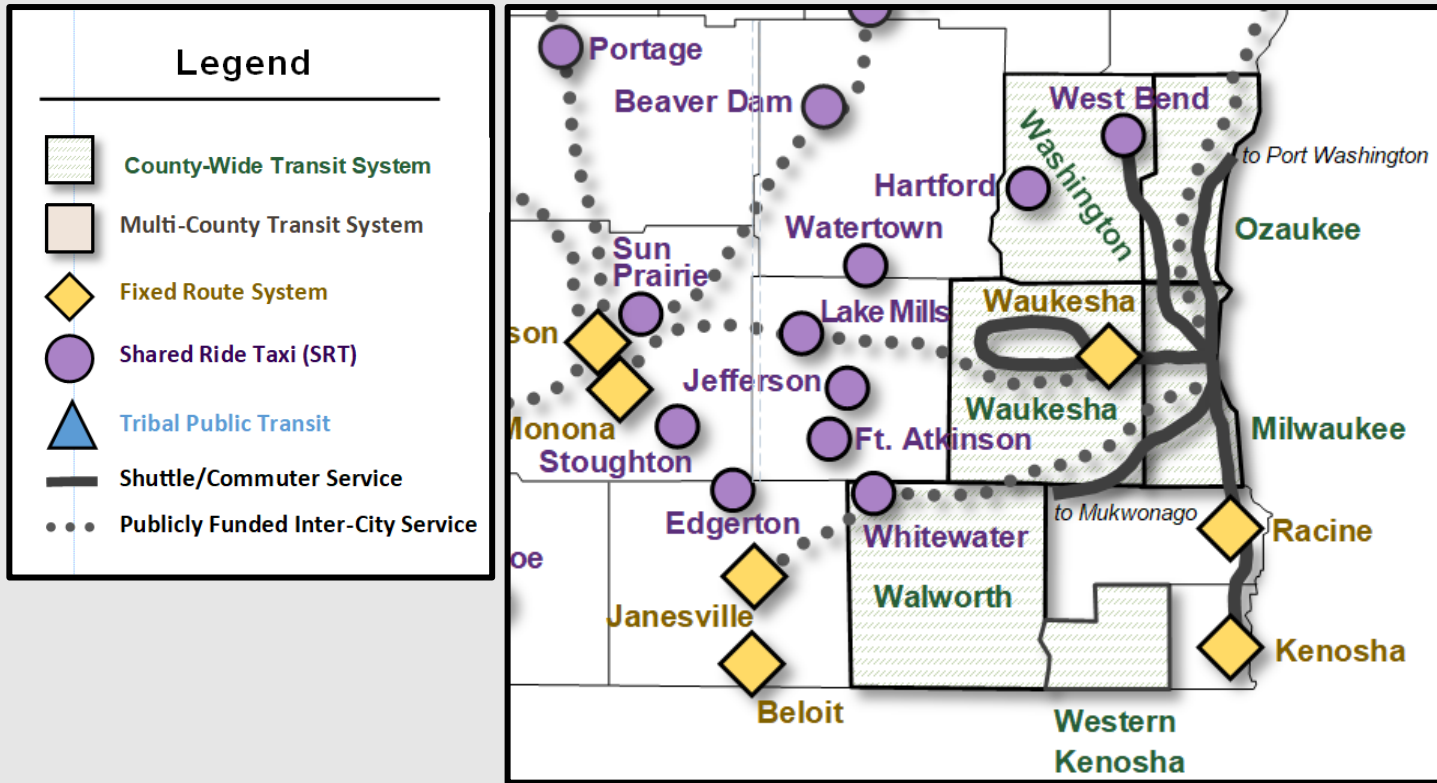
April 2021

Transit Section & Funding Overview

- Over \$220 million annual combined state and federal transit administration (FTA) funding supports urban and rural transit service for public and specialized programs.
- Partnership with local governments, tribes and private non-profits to support extensive statewide transportation network
- WisDOT has 12 permanent staff responsible for 20 program areas including state and federal funding sources, grants management, compliance, oversight, and technical support activities



Public Transit in Southeast Wisconsin



Wisconsin State Funding

- 85.20 Urban mass transit operating assistance program (pairs with FTA 5307 and 5311 funds) - *formula*
 - Provides funding to local governments for operating of public transit programs
 - Fixed-Route and Shared-Ride Taxi
 - Tiered System for allocation (by population)
 - Tier A (Madison and Milwaukee) - \$82,683,200 in CY2020
 - Tier B (Small Urban Systems) - \$24,976,400
 - Tier C (Rural Systems) - \$5,292,700



Wisconsin State Funding

- 85.205 Paratransit Aids - *formula*
 - Provides operating funding on demand ADA Service for fixed-route systems
 - \$3,025,000 CY2020
- 85.21 Sp. Transportation Assistance Program for Counties - *formula*
 - County transportation operating funds for seniors and people with a disability
 - \$15,977,800 CY2020
- 85.215 Tribal Elderly Transportation Grant Program - *formula*
 - Tribal transportation operating funds for elders
 - \$435,600 CY2020



Wisconsin State Funding

- 85.22 Sp. Transportation Program (Pairs with FTA 5310) - *discretionary*
 - Provides funding on demand ADA Service for fixed-route systems
 - \$912,700 CY2020
- 85.24 Transportation employment and mobility program - *discretionary*
 - Funds for counties for transportation of seniors and people with a disability
 - Pairs with the WETAP program (also uses FTA 5311 and 5307 funds)
 - \$582,600 CY2020



FTA Funding

- FTA 5307 (Urban) and 5311 (Rural) funds (pairs with 85.20) - *formula*
 - Provides funding to local governments for operating of public transit programs
 - Fixed-Route and Shared-Ride Taxi
 - 5311 includes training funds (RTAP) for rural systems ~\$330,000 per year
 - Tiered System for allocation (by population)
 - Tier A (Madison and Milwaukee) - \$27,313,007 in CY2020
 - Tier B (Small Urban Systems) - \$24,329,250
 - Tier C (Rural Systems) - \$13,657,940



FTA Funding

- 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (*discretionary*)
 - Operating and capital funds to local governments and non-profits for the transportation for seniors and individuals with a disability
 - \$3,162,229 statewide, \$185,265 Appleton, \$187,515 Green Bay, \$313,332 Madison, \$1,251,474 Milwaukee in CY2020
- 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities (*formula/discretionary*)
 - Funding to public transit systems for capital items like vehicles, facilities, and equip.
 - \$5,370,264 (WisDOT formula) CY2020 - \$838,400 (WisDOT discretionary) CY2019
 - \$4.6mil (City of Madison) and \$3.0mil Milwaukee Co. (discretionary) CY2020



FTA Funding

- 5304 Statewide Planning - *discretionary*
 - Planning grants to local public bodies for the development, evaluation, coordination, expansion, and improvement of transit services
 - \$331,728 CY2020
- 5329 State Safety Oversight (Streetcars) - *formula*
 - Oversight of the Milwaukee and Kenosha streetcar systems - \$302,742 CY2020
- 5311(f) Intercity Bus Assistance - *formula/discretionary*
 - WisDOT contracts with private providers of intercity bus service to support intercity bus routes of the provider (ex. Van Galder, Grayhound, Megabus)
 - State is required to spend 15% of its 5311 appropriation - \$3,007,428 in CY2020



State & FTA Funding

- WI Employment Transportation Assistance Program - *discretionary*
 - Uses WisDOT (85.24), Dept. of Workforce Development (106.26) state funds
 - Uses FTA 5311 rural and 5307 federal funds
 - Non-profits around the state provide transportation services to low-income residents to get to work or job training locations
 - \$1,748,581 in CY2020



WisDOT Public and Specialized Transit Funding 2018-2020 by County*

County	State and Federal Awards	Federal Awards Only
Kenosha	\$22,362,790	\$15,761,832
Milwaukee	\$325,649,437	\$120,811,470
Ozaukee	\$ 8,481,190	\$4,068,597
Racine	\$25,782,429	\$17,931,129
Walworth	\$3,342,969	\$2,085,537
Washington	\$14,004,765	\$8,931,299
Waukesha	\$20,419,822	\$6,257,508

*Funding levels do not include funds directly received by urban areas to FTA



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Poll Question



➤ Overview of survey sections

Transportation Coordinati

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Transportation Coordinatio

Section 1: Evaluation of Your County

Assessment of Existing Transportation

Please tell us how well current public transportation are meeting the needs of residents by rating each service. Additional feedback can be provided in the comments section with a specific service in mind, please identify the service.

	Excellent (6)
Areas Served*	<input type="radio"/>
Days and Hours*	<input type="radio"/>
Fares*	<input type="radio"/>
Eligibility Restrictions on Services*	<input type="radio"/>
Vehicle Accessibility*	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of Service/Customer Service*	<input type="radio"/>

Unmet Transportation Needs within your County

Please consider your assessment of existing transportation services in this section to assist with recommending edits or additions to address transportation needs from your County's 2016 Public Transit - Human Services Coordination Plan.

Unmet Need 1

There is a need for State approval of dedicated funding for transit from the State. In recent years, there has been a separate from the property tax levy to provide the funding to address existing and future public transportation needs. Federal funding, which provides the majority of funding, is decreasing. All of these funding limitations have impacted the transit system.

Please indicate any edits to this unmet need in the comments section below.

Unmet Need 2

Need for improving coordination and communication between transportation agencies.

o Lack of communication among transportation agencies

Strategies to Address Unmet Needs

We ask that you now rank the strategies to address unmet transportation needs from your County's 2016 Public Transit - Human Services Coordination Plan. Rank each strategy by clicking and dragging the strategy to the top, being the highest priority. **After your first ranking is populated, however, you can still move strategies. If a strategy is no longer applicable, please delete it in the Edits section below.** If you have any other comments on the rankings, please include it in the comments section below.

Ranking Strategies*

Create new or expand upon existing transportation and human services providers to provide services to underserved areas in the County.

Pursue dedicated and sustainable funding for transportation services from all levels of government to make it more convenient, safe, and lower fares. Pursue additional funding for projects that would improve transportation services available in the County.

Edits to 2016 Strategies to Address Unmet Transportation Needs Between Counties

The following section requests any edits to the strategies for addressing unmet transportation needs between Counties from the 2016 Public Transit - Human Services Coordination Plan. **If you believe a strategy is no longer applicable, write "Delete" in the space below.**

Strategy 1

Establish a regional transit authority with a dedicated funding source.

Please indicate any edits to this strategy in the space below:

Strategy 2

Encourage transit agencies to create memorandums of agreement or understanding that create transit connections between counties and establish procedures for funding these services. These agreements could also encourage municipalities not involved in providing transit to participate in these services and could create a coalition or task force that implements a partnership plan among transit providers. Local municipalities should research additional funding opportunities, such as private funding options, to increase transportation options for employment and medical trips.

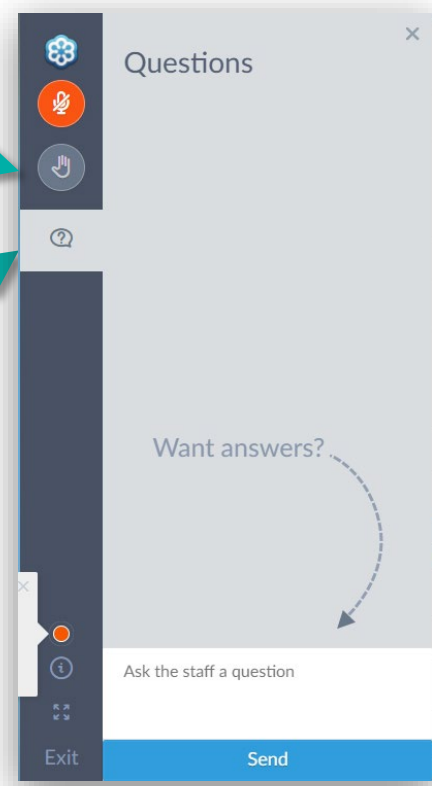
Please indicate any edits to this strategy in the space below:



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Question and Answer Session



●●●●● Next Steps

- Commission Staff will compile the survey responses and comments received during the virtual meeting into a final document for each county
- The final plan will be provided to attendees and State staff, and be available online
- The final plan will guide investments in the Region in certain Federal and State funding programs for the next four years



Thank You

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Survey closes Friday, April 23

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