



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

Beyond the White LINES

See you in Duluth!

Have you registered for the joint MN/WI Fall Transportation Conference yet? It will be held Oct. 19-21, 2015 and is shaping up to be another great opportunity for learning and networking. Registration and agenda can be found [here](#). Don't forget that you may qualify for a scholarship for up to 100% of conference expenses from the WisDOT RTAP program.

This month's newsletter is dedicated to information directly from WisDOT. Katie Patterson offers information on how to update your coordinated plan and the latest on the tribal and county specialized transportation grants.

Coordinated Planning Process for Public and Human Services Transportation – Amending Your County Coordinated Plan

As of 2013, all 72 counties in Wisconsin have an approved county coordinated plan for public and human services transportation. These plans are required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for projects being applied for under Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) and by WisDOT for projects being applied for under state 85.21 (Specialized Transportation Assistance for Counties). The coordinated plans only need to be renewed every four years if a county is in a non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act or every five years if it is not. If a county needs to make an amendment to their coordinated plan before it is renewed, whatever entity has been designated as the keeper of the coordinated plan can follow the steps below for WisDOT approval of their amendment:

1. A narrative summary must be sent to the WisDOT Specialized Transit Program managers describing the reason for the coordination plan amendment.
2. Documentation must be shown that the invitees to the original coordination plan meeting were contacted and given an opportunity to provide feedback on the newly amended plan. All feedback of the amendment must also be included.

Beyond the White Lines is a publication of the Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. dedicated to transportation, mobility and livable communities.

For more information, contact Carrie Porter, carrie.porter@gwaar.org, 608-228-8092

Free Driver Training

Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP)

This program managed by WisDOT has a variety of free driver trainings. Click [here](#) for more information and training schedule.

September 2015



Madison Office:

1414 MacArthur Road
Suite A
Madison, WI 53714
ph. 608.243.5670
fax. 866.813.0974

Brookfield Office:

125 N. Executive Drive, Suite 207
Brookfield, WI 53005

Green Bay Office:

2900 Curry Lane, Suite 414
Green Bay, WI 54311

Tribal Technical Assistance Center:

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
P.O. Box 9
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
ph. 800.472.7207
fax. 715.588.7900

Coordinated Planning *cont.*

3. A copy of the meeting minutes or documentation of the approval of the amended coordination plan.

4. A copy of the new approved plan

County coordinated plans only have to be amended if a project being applied for under federal Section 5310 or state 85.21 does not fall within the current goals set in the coordinated plan. If a new goal is needed or a current goal needs to be altered, an amendment to the coordinated plan is required.

State 85.215 Tribal Elderly Transportation Grant Program

Grant release coming soon!

The state 85.215 Tribal Elderly Transportation Grant Program sub-recipients will once again submit their annual application to WisDOT via the online grants management system, BlackCat, by December 31st for 2016 funds.

Each of the eleven federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin receives an annual allocation of \$22,500 for their elder transportation service. 85.215 funds can be used for projects such as direct service, the purchase or subsidization of service, capital purchases, planning studies, coordinating services, and transportation training. Applications for 2016 funds will be distributed sometime in September and allocations are usually distributed each May/June.

State 85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties

Grant release coming soon!

The state 85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties application for 2016 will be released in September and is due December 31st. The application will once again be submitted on the online grants management system, BlackCat. Few updates for the application have been made, and the 2015 application will remain on BlackCat to use as reference for the 2016 application.

Overall, the 85.21 grant program gained a one percent funding increase in 2016 and in 2017. Total annual funding for the program had remained flat at \$13,623,400 for the past few years, with the minimum amount of \$68,117 going to each county with less than 0.5 percent of the total annual appropriation for the program. In 2016, the total allocation is at \$13,768,800 with the minimum of **\$68,844** going to each county with less than 0.5 percent of the total annual appropriation for the program. The 2016 allocations for each county have been calculated and are awaiting final approval. The Specialized Transit Program Managers hope to be able to release the allocations any day now.

Note : If you would like to include new or different user into the BlackCat system, please let one of the Specialized Transit Program Managers know and they can send out usernames and passwords. The program managers are also able to answer any questions regarding the website and can help if you have issues with application submission, data entry, vehicle inventories, or anything else that may come up.

Specialized Transit Program Manager Contact Information

Katie Patterson

katherine.patterson@dot.wi.gov

608-264-7335

Rebecca Thompson

rebecca.thompson@dot.wi.gov

608-266-1535

Thank you Katie and Rebecca and all the WisDOT Transit Bureau staff. Your work is sincerely appreciated!