



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

# Beyond the White LINES

*Ready, Set, Advocate!*

*What you should know to advocate about the state transportation budget.*

## Beyond the White Lines

is a publication of the Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. dedicated to transportation, mobility and healthy, active communities.

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### Dates for your calendars

Aging Network Conference  
Sept. 22-23, 2016  
Wisconsin Dells

Just Fix It: Turnout for Transportation, Sept. 29, 2016 in every county

Fall Transportation Conference Oct. 4-6, 2016, Green Bay

RTAP regional training schedule found [here](#).

September 15 is a big day. The Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will be releasing their full budget along with all other state departments. This is unusual because WisDOT usually only releases a partial budget in September and the remainder later in the year when they know their Federal funding allocation. We also know from letters Governor Walker sent to WisDOT and from a meeting representatives of WAAN had with WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb that the proposed budget will be within the current revenues. Current revenues for the Transportation Fund fall short of the demands therefore we are likely to see very few increases in funding and potential cuts to projects. This also means we will need to be ready to advocate with our legislators, particularly those on the Joint Finance Committee to influence the budget amendment process.

### Educate yourself, your boards and your customers

Over the years, the aging network has become one of many coalition partners talking about the need for increased transportation funding. The WI Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) has a position on transportation funding as do other groups like the WI Urban & Rural Transit Association and the Survival Coalition (group of disability advocates). Learn about the common messages by viewing the transportation position papers of each at these link.

[WI Aging Advocacy Network \(WAAN\)](#)  
[WI Rural & Urban Transportation Assn. \(WURTA\)](#)  
[Survival Coalition](#)

While legislators are in their districts, ask them and those running for office what their policies are or will be on transportation – beyond roads to include infrastructure and services needed by those who do not or choose not to drive.

Participate in the events listed on the second page to educate officials and raise awareness of the multi-modal funding needs in your community.

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The Transportation Development Assn. (TDA) with support from WI Counties Assn. (WCA) and other groups created the Just Fix It! Initiative to focus on finding a solution to the revenue gap in the transportation budget. It is important to continue to educate state and local officials that the Transportation Fund not only supports roads and bridges, but public and specialized transportation as well as bike and pedestrian infrastructure. This multi-modal message has been missing from this initiative so far. A Turnout for Transportation event is planned on Sept. 29 in each county. The official announcement is below. Here are some ways to engage: **1) reach out to your Highway Commissioner prior to the event and ensure multi-modal transportation needs will be discussed at the meetings. 2) attend the event with others who have a stake in different transportation modes 3) continue the discussion in your county and with your local legislators.**

### ***Just Fix It: Turnout for Transportation***

*For the first time in history there will be a Statewide Town Hall Event on Transportation Funding held in over 70 counties across Wisconsin. In this unprecedented event, on September 29th at 7 p.m., county, city, town, and village officials will gather in their area to have their voices heard.*



*The meeting, held at a location near you, will focus on critical projects in each region and bring attention to the need for the state to find a sustainable solution to Wisconsin's transportation issues.*

*For more information about this statewide event or details about your county in particular, call **Highway Commissioner in your county** or email [Chelsea Fibert](mailto:Chelsea.Fibert). For an update on the Just Fix It campaign click [here](#).*

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Forums are also being sponsored by the Sierra Club, WISPIRG, WISDOM and WI Green Muslims. Details below.

*Every single time you leave your house, you rely on transportation, probably often without thinking about it. Regardless of whether you go to work, appointments, out to eat or other social engagements, to run errands, etc, you always need an efficient, affordable way to get from where you are to where you are going*

*For many, it isn't a guarantee that they will be able to get to where they want to go. They may have to turn down a job, miss an appointment, or be late because adequate transportation doesn't exist.*

*Join us for a local transportation forum in your community to learn about what you can do to help provide access for everyone to where they need to go. [RSVP now!](#)*

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

**WHO:** Friends, family, neighbors, activists, Sierra Club and you!

**WHAT:** Local transportation and equity forums throughout Wisconsin

**WHEN/WHERE:** each will be between 1 and 2 hours:

- September 14 at 8:30 AM Waukesha, Ascension Lutheran Church, 1415 Dopp St
- September 15 at 6:00 PM Milwaukee, St. Francis Catholic Church, 1927 North Street
- September 15 at 1:00 PM Kenosha, Civil War Museum, 5400 1st Ave
- September 20 at 6:30 PM Madison, Urban League, 222 S. Park Street
- September 22 at 7:00 PM Eau Claire, Davies Center at UW-Eau Claire, room 206
- October 5 at 6:00 PM La Crosse, Southside Neighborhood Center, 1300 6th Street S

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