



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

Beyond the White LINES

Leadership Change at Wisconsin Department of Transportation

As of Jan. 6, 2017, Secretary Gottlieb resigned his position with Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation. Governor Walker appointed Dave Ross as the new Secretary as of Jan. 7. Sec. Ross was former Secretary of the Department of Safety and Professional Services. We will begin to form a relationship with the new administration including Deputy Secretary, Bob Seitz. Mr. Seitz previously worked for the Wisconsin Public Services Commission.

Governor's Budget and Transportation

This year, a significant amount of attention is being paid to the transportation portion of the Governor's budget. There are questions about revenues needed to continue maintenance of existing local, state roads, highways and bridges and a recent audit of the Dept. of Transportation calls into question procedures within the Department related to road construction cost estimates. You may be thinking, that's roads, not transit or specialized transportation, but they are connected. Various modes of transportation, from walking to transit to road construction are all funded through the segregated transportation fund as part of a long-standing policy of transportation funding being for a network of services.

In the Governor's proposed [budget](#), the state funding for specialized transportation, 85.21, was increased by 2% in each year of the [biennium](#). The tribal specialized transportation program, 85.215 was increased by \$148,500 in each year of the biennium. This more than doubles funding in the tribal transportation program. Transit funding was neither increased nor decreased despite the desperate need in capital funding to replace aging and unsafe transit vehicles.

We continue to watch developments on the Federal level that have the potential to significantly impact transit and specialized transportation programs.

Volunteer Drivers and Insurance – OCI Report Released

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance has published updated results of a survey of vehicle insurance providers that provide personal insurance coverage for volunteers who drive for charitable organizations. The report can be found at the OCI website under Consumer Publications, Other or [here](#).

Beyond the White Lines

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

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

Transportation

Legislative Day - March 8 State Capitol, RSVP Bengelki@ci.waukesha.wi.us

WAMM/WRAPP

Conference – April 5-6 Wausau – click [here](#) to register

WIPTA Conference

Oct. 2-4, Oshkosh

Free Driver Training

(RTAP) Click [here](#) for training schedule.

March 2017



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Wisconsin's Transportation Associations Updates

WRAPP, WAMM, WURTA, WCTC, WATO... WHAT?!? There are a number of transportation associations in WI of which many of you may be members. There are exciting developments in several associations as well as upcoming conferences to report.



Working
Together
For
You



Several years ago, the transportation associations in WI convened regular meetings to discuss ways in which to better organize and coordinate to meet the needs of those who rely on each association's expertise, information, and advocacy support. The WI Assn. of Mobility Managers (WAMM) and WI Rural & Paratransit Providers (WRAPP) continued these discussions and received member approval to begin the process of merging the two associations. The two groups already partnered to offer a joint spring conference the last 2 years and will be doing so again on April 5-6 in Wausau. Registration is open for this conference and can be found [here](#). Details on other aspects of the merger like dues and committees are still being determined. The associations are confident this merger will result in more benefits and value to new and existing members.



For many years, the WI Urban and Rural Transit Association (WURTA) has been a leader in transit related advocacy. There are 2 significant announcements concerning WURTA.

First, Gary Goyke who has been the long-time Legislative Liaison for WURTA retired from that position in Oct. 2016. WURTA enlisted the lobbying services of AJ Wilson of the firm Hubbard Wilson and Zelenkova. Gary continues to provide legislative services to other transportation associations like All Aboard WI, the SMV Association and WAMM.

Second, as of January 2017, the WURTA Board considered several issues related to the association and officially voted to dissolve WURTA. A new association was formed, the WI Public Transportation Association which is seeking 501(C)6 non-profit status. The new logo is above and you will see advertising for the March 8 Legislative Day at the Capitol, position papers and the fall conference flyers all under this new association. If you have any questions about this change, please direct them to WIPTA President, Brain Engelking at bengelki@ci.waukesha.wi.us.

If you have a suggestion for topics in future newsletters, please contact Carrie Porter, carrie.porter@gwaar.org.