

Shared Use Mobility and Coordination Solutions Council (SUMaCS)

In order to most effectively use private and public transportation resources and respond to cutting edge technology, like that of autonomous vehicles, advocates and stakeholders recommend the creation of a state-level, interdepartmental council to create a strategic action plan for statewide transportation coordination and for new, innovative and technology-based opportunities.

Self-sufficiency through Mobility Innovations

Mobility is a broad term that identifies how people get around. Mobility can include walking, transit and individual vehicle use. All forms of mobility use both private and public resources. Many services are provided by government entities, often in collaboration with private businesses and non-profits. The proposed council can promote coordination across sectors and address public policy issues and possible unintended consequences that arise out of new opportunities. The group can be tasked with looking for ways transportation can positively impact access to home and community based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, Veteran's healthcare, and employment services so individuals have the ability to become self-sufficient through employment.

Representation on the Council and Advisory Committee

Recommended state-level agencies participating in this council include: DHS –Divisions of Public Health and Medicaid and the Tribal Affairs Office as they each work with very different transportation programs for people with public benefits and those without, WisDOT, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Workforce Development, Office of Commissioner of Insurance, Wisconsin Economic Development Board and other departments working with transportation and new technologies in transportation and be chaired by a member of the Governor's staff.

The departments involved will recommend actions necessary to create a state action plan for moving Wisconsin's transportation programs forward, to innovate with the use of autonomous vehicle technology in individual vehicles and buses and consider ridesharing and other personal transit modes and how these work with and complement existing transportation services. The demand for transportation far exceeds the resources, especially in rural areas – so the goal is to expand service; complement, not replace. It will be important to create and maintain an equitable network and access to this network no matter where in the state you live, how much you can afford to pay and what services you need and can access.

An advisory committee composed of advocates for older adults and individuals with disabilities, private and public transportation providers, regional planners, county, municipal and town representation, Veteran's organizations, tribal leaders, and at- large community members should be created to inform the SUMaCS Council.

Mobility to Strengthen Families

There is no doubt the state needs to address transportation innovations for the people and businesses in Wisconsin. The proposed council and advisory committee creates a mechanism for adequate public input, transparency and reduces unintended consequences on government entities, private businesses and non-profits already operating transportation programs in the state.

As the state works to strengthen families and communities, retain quality of life for vulnerable citizens and provide paths to security and independence through mobility options, it will be critical to work with all stakeholders to develop a shared use and coordination plan for the state through an interdepartmental council and advisory committee.

Contact: Carrie Diamond, Transportation Specialist, Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc., <u>carrie.diamond@gwaar.org</u>, 608-228-8092