

June 17 & 18, 2020: Wisconsin Non-Driver Advisory Committee

Event summary

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About the Committee

The Wisconsin Non-Driver Advisory Committee (WiNDAC), formed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), includes members from government, academia, and special interest groups. (The full membership list is provided in Appendix B). The Committee was formed for members to work together to address the mobility needs of Wisconsin's non-driving populations. Non-drivers may include people who do not drive due to age, financial constraints, physical, mental or developmental disabilities, or choice.

About the event

On June 17-18, 2020, WiNDAC met for the first time. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee met online over two half-day sessions. Because the event was an open/public meeting, observers could view the proceedings. The focus was on identifying transportation challenges and opportunities for non-drivers – with an emphasis on mobility and access – and learning about state-administered programs.

The meeting included two expert panels: one on urban and rural mobility needs of Wisconsin's non-drivers; and one on state agency programs serving Wisconsin's non-drivers. After each panel, Committee members participated in small breakout sessions to share their perspectives on the panel presentations and respond to questions concerning non-driver challenges and opportunities.

Several themes emerged:

- Non-driving populations face challenges when coordinating their transportation needs for both essential and discretionary trips.
- Challenges with trip planning include restricted transit options; limited service hours, frequency and locations; and operations that typically stop at local boundaries.
- Strengthened inter-agency coordination could help leverage available funding; streamline program rules and requirements; and identify additional opportunities to provide services that support non-driving populations
- Non-driving populations would benefit from having clear, integrated, easy-to-access trip-planning information and tools.
- When solutions are identified, they need to be person-centered and account for the state's diverse populations of non-drivers.

Presentations and briefing papers are shared on the WiNDAC website, which is linked in Appendix A. Committee members were surveyed ahead of the meeting to learn more about potential topics, priorities and goals for the Committee's work (Appendix A). Results of this survey (Appendix A) were presented to the Committee. Members indicated that transit and non-emergency medical transportation were their highest priorities, followed by organizational collaboration and pedestrian safety. They also shared that, in the coming two years, they would like to see the committee's work focus on better understanding the needs of non-drivers and the gaps in meeting those needs, as well on improving coordination and innovation in delivering services to non-driving populations. These insights

were used to help frame the Committee's first meeting, and many of the themes highlighted in the survey were echoed in discussion during the meeting.

This was WisDOT's first stakeholder group held wholly in an online environment. Almost all of the Committee's 36 members participated in the two-day online meeting. In a post-meeting survey, all (24) respondents found the meeting valuable -- with two-thirds of respondents finding the meeting *very* valuable. Respondents were particularly satisfied with the small breakout groups – and several survey comments focused on the organization, execution, and support from the state agency staff. The Committee plans to meet again in late 2020.

Recommendations and next steps

Within the small breakout rooms, Committee members identified a list of short-term (6 month) and long-term (2 years) recommendations for Committee and member agencies to consider. Each small group chose up to three recommendations from each time period to include in a straw poll taken among all group members. The results of this informal ranking are shared below.

Short-term recommendations for consideration included:

- Survey non-drivers. Complete a scientific survey of the non-driver population to better understand this diverse population.
- Recommend pilot opportunities. Consider opportunities to pilot programs and incentives for regional collaborations.
- Coordinate among agencies. Study opportunities and identify mechanisms to coordinate among agencies, programs, and funding sources to enable more efficient and innovative use of available resources.

Long-term recommendations for consideration included:

- One-stop application for users. Implement technologies that would allow users to seamlessly access service information and plan trips. This could be offered through a combination of technologies, including phone centers and an internet-based application.
- Explore regional coordination structures. Identify and implement regional private/public partnerships that offer flexibility in funding and services provided.
- Conduct a statutory/policy programs review. Review and recommend changes to state statutes and state agencies' policies most needed to address persistent non-driver issues.

Highlights of the premeeting survey (results linked in Appendix A) relevant to next steps include:

- Members responded that state agencies can have high impact on most top issue areas; that local/regional agencies can have high impact on public transit and on pedestrian and bicyclist safety; and that non-governmental organizations can have high impact on the development of new technologies and innovations.
- Gap analysis, increased coordination and innovation, and improved performance metrics and data collection were identified as potential goals for the Committee's first two years.
- Committee members are interested in an inclusive approach, including looking to expand options in rural, underserved areas. Several specifically referenced using a [health equity lens](#).

Committee Co-Chairs will work together to identify next steps for the Committee, relying on small and large group activity notes, presentation materials, and survey results.

Appendix A: WiNDAC home page link: resources & meeting materials

[Link to WiNDAC home page](#), which includes:

- Agenda
- Presentation on membership pre-meeting survey
- Presentations on Wisconsin's non-drivers
- Briefing papers on state agency programs serving non-drivers
- Personal stories of non-driver challenges

Appendix B: members and attendees

Members and presenters

Aileen Switzer, Administrator, Division of Budget & Strategic Initiatives, Wisconsin DOT	Co-chair
Denise Jess, Executive Director, Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired	Co-chair
Tami Jackson, Public Policy Analyst, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities	Co-chair
Craig Thompson, Secretary, Wisconsin DOT	Member
Joel Nilsestuen, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin DOT	Sponsor/Member
Dan Boehm, Managing Director, Milwaukee County Transit System	Member and presenter
Tim Cornelius, Insurance Examiner, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	Member and presenter
Allison Gordon, Director, Bureau of Consumer Services, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development	Member and presenter
Zachary Hendrickson, Veterans Program Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs	Member and presenter
Iris Jacobson, Education Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction	Member and presenter
Jennifer Jako, Director, Aging and Disability Resource Center of Barron, Rusk, and Washburn County	Member and presenter
Carey McAndrews, Associate Professor, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, UW-Madison	Presenter
Carrie Diamond, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist for the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, Easterseals	Presenter
Ian Ritz, Transit Section Chief, Wisconsin DOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors	Presenter
Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski, Urban Planner, Wisconsin DOT Bureau of Planning and Economic Development	Presenter
Michele Carter, Director, Wisconsin DOT Office of Business Opportunity and Equity Compliance	Presenter
Rep. Dave Considine, Representative - District 81, Wisconsin State Assembly	Member
Sam Otterson, Legislative Aide, Rep. Considine's office, Wisconsin State Assembly	
Sen. Jerry Petrowski, Senator - District 29, Wisconsin State Senate	Member
Tim Fiocchi, Chief of Staff, Sen. Petrowski's office, Wisconsin State Senate	
Maia Stitt, Disabilities Program and Policy Analyst, Wisconsin DHS (Disabilities Program Coordinator, The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities)	Member
Gregg May, Transportation Policy Analyst, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin	Member
Lisa Pugh, Executive Director, The Arc Wisconsin	Member
Barbara Beckert, Director of External Advocacy SE WI, Disability Rights Wisconsin	Member
Mitch Batuzich, Transportation Planner, FHWA - Wisconsin Division	Member

Nick Musson, Transportation Specialist, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR)	Member
Jerry Deschane, Executive Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities	Member
Karen Melasecca, Transit Manager, Namekagon Transit	Member
Rishelle Eithun, Injury Prevention Program Manager, Safe Kids Wisconsin	Member
Kevin Muhs, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)	Member
Robert Schneider, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Planning, UW Milwaukee	Member
Jay Tucker/Artis Landon, Director, Workforce Initiatives & Supportive Services, Wisconsin Community Services	Member
Lynn Nelson, Executive Director, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	Member
Sue Pomplun, President, Wisconsin Association of Mobility Managers	Member
Kirsten Finn, Executive Director, Wisconsin Bike Fed	Member
Beth Swedeen, Executive Director, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities	Member
Katie Davis, Executive Director, Wisconsin County Human Service Association	Member
Michael Welsh, Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications, Wisconsin Economic Development Association	Member
Tom Wagener, Chair, Wisconsin Public Transportation Association (WIPTA)	Member
Tom Still, President, Wisconsin Technology Council	Member
Michael Koles, Executive Director, Wisconsin Towns Associations	Member

Members unable to attend

Dave Ostness, County Board Supervisor, Wisconsin Counties Association	Member
Jim Palmer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Professional Police Association	Member
Mark Kessenich, CEO, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP/BIGSTEP)	Member

WisDOT event staffers

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Rudy King, WisDOT Office of Public Affairs	Livestreaming
Justin Shell, Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin DOT Division of Transportation Investment Management	Facilitator & subject expert
June Coleman, Director, Wisconsin DOT Bureau of Performance Improvement, Research and Strategic Initiatives	Subject expert
Chuck Wade, Director, Wisconsin DOT Bureau of Planning & Economic Development	Facilitator & subject expert
Dave Simon, Director, Wisconsin DOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads & Harbors	Subject expert
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