

People First Wisconsin Needs Better Transportation

People First Wisconsin



See Our ~~dis~~Ability

April 2018

Our Position on Transportation

People with disabilities should be able to get to the places they need and want to go so they can work, participate in and contribute to their communities.

What is happening with Transportation for people with disabilities?

- Many people with disabilities don't own a car or drive.
- Public transportation is not available in many rural communities and when it is, it is becoming more limited.
- People often cannot get places in the evenings or on weekends.
- People cannot get rides that cross county lines.
- Transportation is expensive. Most people with disabilities have little money.
- Rides paid for by Medicaid (or Family Care, IRIS) cannot always make all the stops people need (like a trip to the doctor cannot stop at the grocery store.)
- Rideshare services (like Uber or Lyft) are working for some people, but they could be made better. Uber costs 10-60% less than a cab ride; rides can be scheduled as needed.



What do People First members say they want to change?

People with disabilities need the funds and programs they use for transportation to work better and to have more options in all communities, whether it is a city or a small town.

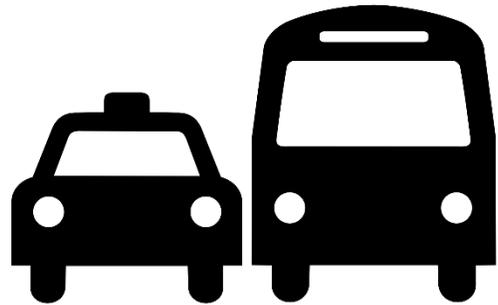
Stories from People First Wisconsin Members

Jennifer has three jobs in the community. At least once a week a taxi either arrives early (up to an hour) or late (up to 30 minutes) to get her to work. If she declines the ride or doesn't get to the car on time, she is charged a "no rider" fee and the cab will leave. Then she cannot get to work. There is no reliable public transportation route she can use. –Mequon

One of Monica's key doctors is in Milwaukee County, but her transportation is restricted by county. Her ride can only take her to the county line bus transit location and then she must wait, sometimes up to an hour, for the correct bus. When she is returning, she often will have to call for a taxi from the hospital and if she arrives late at the bus stop, the taxi will have already come and left, she gets a "no rider" fee. Recently, the public phone at the Bus Stop she most often uses was removed. – Ozaukee County

Robert struggles with transportation to and from his job.

Service in Neenah ends at 5:45 p.m. Monday – Saturday and there is no bus service on Sunday. His employer typically schedules him so his shift ends before the last bus run. When scheduled to work on Sundays, Robert often will ride his bike, but this is challenging during the winter months. He must rely on friends or family giving him a ride or calling a cab. – Neenah



Our Asks: Expand Rideshare Services to Work for People with Disabilities

- Make sure rideshare services like Uber and Lyft can be paid for through Medicaid programs, including Family Care and IRIS.
- Pass legislation like in Massachusetts that certifies rideshare companies. This makes sure drivers have good background checks and requires companies to have accessible options.
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H4570>
- Fund a pilot project to improve transportation in both cities and small towns.
- Support and allow family members of persons with disabilities to be paid rideshare drivers.
- Require and fund training of rideshare drivers so they understand how to support riders with disabilities.