

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS IN

MILWAUKEE

from **ARRIVE TOGETHER:** Transportation Access and Equity in Wisconsin

The report examined the effectiveness and equitability of transportation in nine cities and major metropolitan regions across Wisconsin. This examination is a culmination of 2010 U.S. Census data, figures provided by public transportation systems, the state of Wisconsin, and direct personal interviews with transit riders. The report concludes that, while each community faces unique challenges in providing transportation access to employment, medical services, major businesses, local attractions or other points of interest, the absence of consistent and sufficient funding for public transportation is a major hurdle across the board. Inadequate financial support from federal and state governments and an inability to raise additional resources through local funding mechanisms like Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) are making it increasingly difficult for local public transportation systems statewide to provide mobility for all.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY TRANSIT OVERVIEW

Milwaukee County Transit Service (MCTS) provides service to Milwaukee County and limited service to Ozaukee and Waukesha Counties. Direct management and operation of the transit system, including fixed route and paratransit service for persons with disabilities, is provided by Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc. (MTS), which is a private nonprofit corporation that contracts with the county. The transit system's equipment and facilities are owned by Milwaukee County, while system workers are employees of MTS. Approximately 39 million people ride MCTS each year.

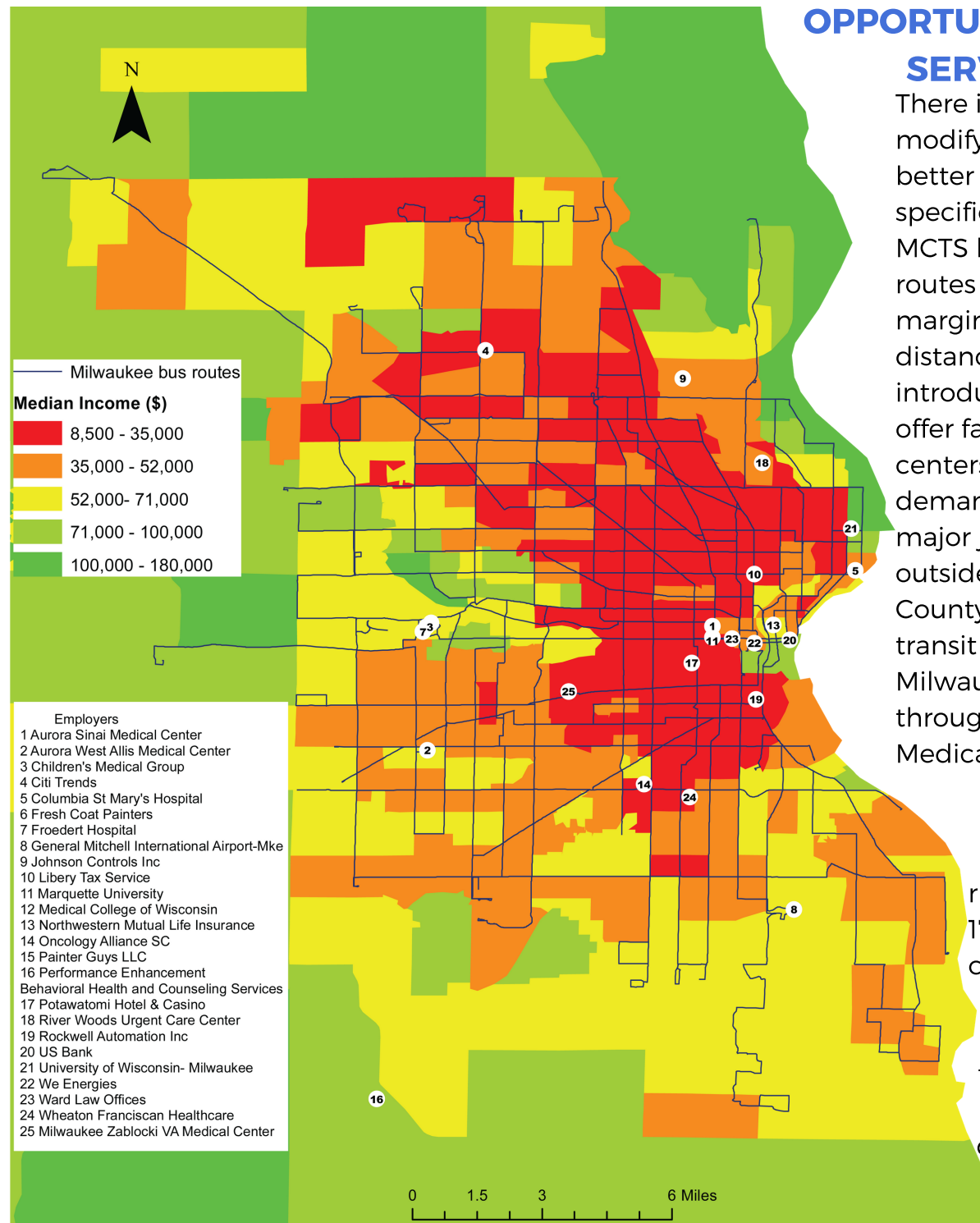
TRANSIT SYSTEM BARRIERS

MCTS provides access to most major employers located within Milwaukee. The mean travel time to work via transit is 38.9 minutes, but almost 25% of workers had travel times of an hour or more. At the same time, all of the net job growth in the Milwaukee region has occurred outside of the County, in suburban areas in Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties. This contributes to the chronic jobs gap in Milwaukee, where the number of job openings is lower than the number of people seeking employment. Many of the suburban and exurban areas have little or no transit service from the city.



TRANSIT TO MILWAUKEE'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS

The map shows transit access to Milwaukee's 25 largest employers as well as median income levels (taken from the 2010 US Census). MCTS provides access to most major employers located within Milwaukee County for residents of most city neighborhoods, regardless of income.



OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND SERVICE AND FUNDING

There is significant potential to modify or expand routes to better connect job locations, specifically in the city's suburbs. MCTS has been streamlining routes by reducing turns, marginally increasing the distance between stops and introducing "express routes," that offer faster service to major job centers. There is significant demand for more bus service to major job centers that lie just outside County borders. The County plans to build bus-rapid-transit between Downtown Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, through the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center. The new route is expected to have 9,500 weekday riders by 2035 and increase overall ridership on the corridor by 17 percent. If implemented correctly, this line could be a template for a region-wide rapid transit system that connects residents to jobs and other destinations, takes cars off the road, improves air quality, and increases traffic safety.

The map was created by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin.
For full report: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/ArriveTogetherReport

"My husband and I take Public Transit to the Symphony and Theater in Milwaukee. We often find ourselves sharing the bus with students (college and high school) who are going to sports events. The young generation is attracted to alternative transportation. We need to invest in transit because it is the transportation of tomorrow. It is important for recruiting young adults to our cities." -Cheri, Milwaukee