

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS IN WAUKESHA

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.

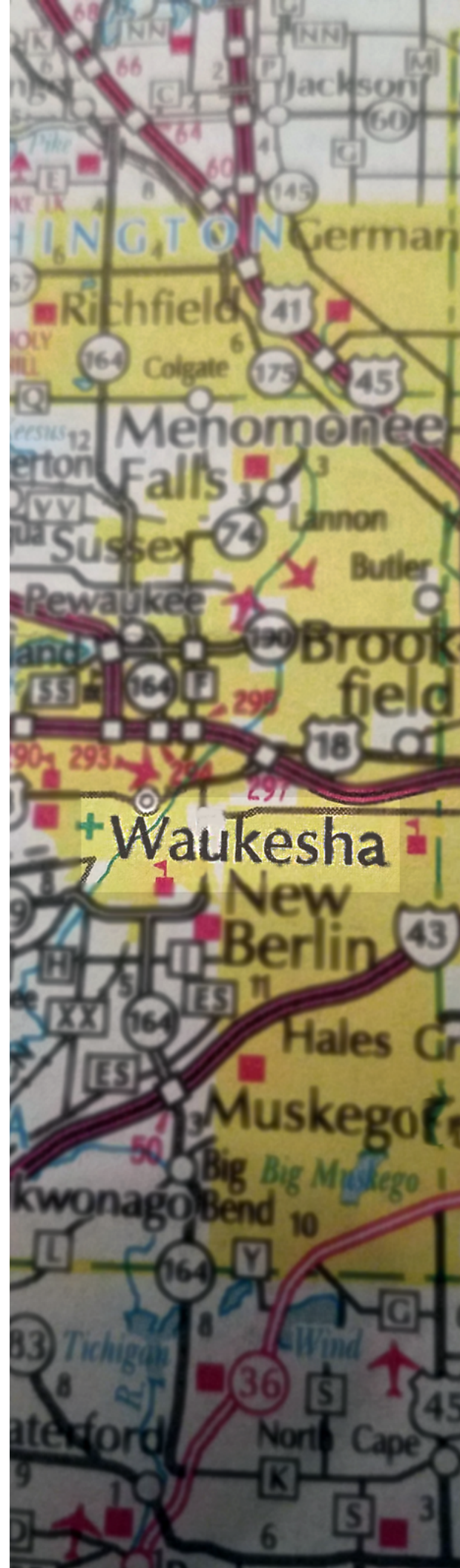
WAUKESHA TRANSIT OVERVIEW

The only public bus system in the county, Waukesha Metro Transit, is operated by the City of Waukesha, though there are several shared fare taxis and paratransit systems throughout the county. Waukesha Metro Transit operates throughout the City of Waukesha and into a few adjacent areas. It also administers contracted transit service for the county through Wisconsin Coach Lines and Milwaukee County Transit. Waukesha Metro also offers Metrolift, a demand-responsive transportation service. Waukesha Metro Transit provided more than 695,000 rides in 2015 and almost 11,000 paratransit trips.

TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS

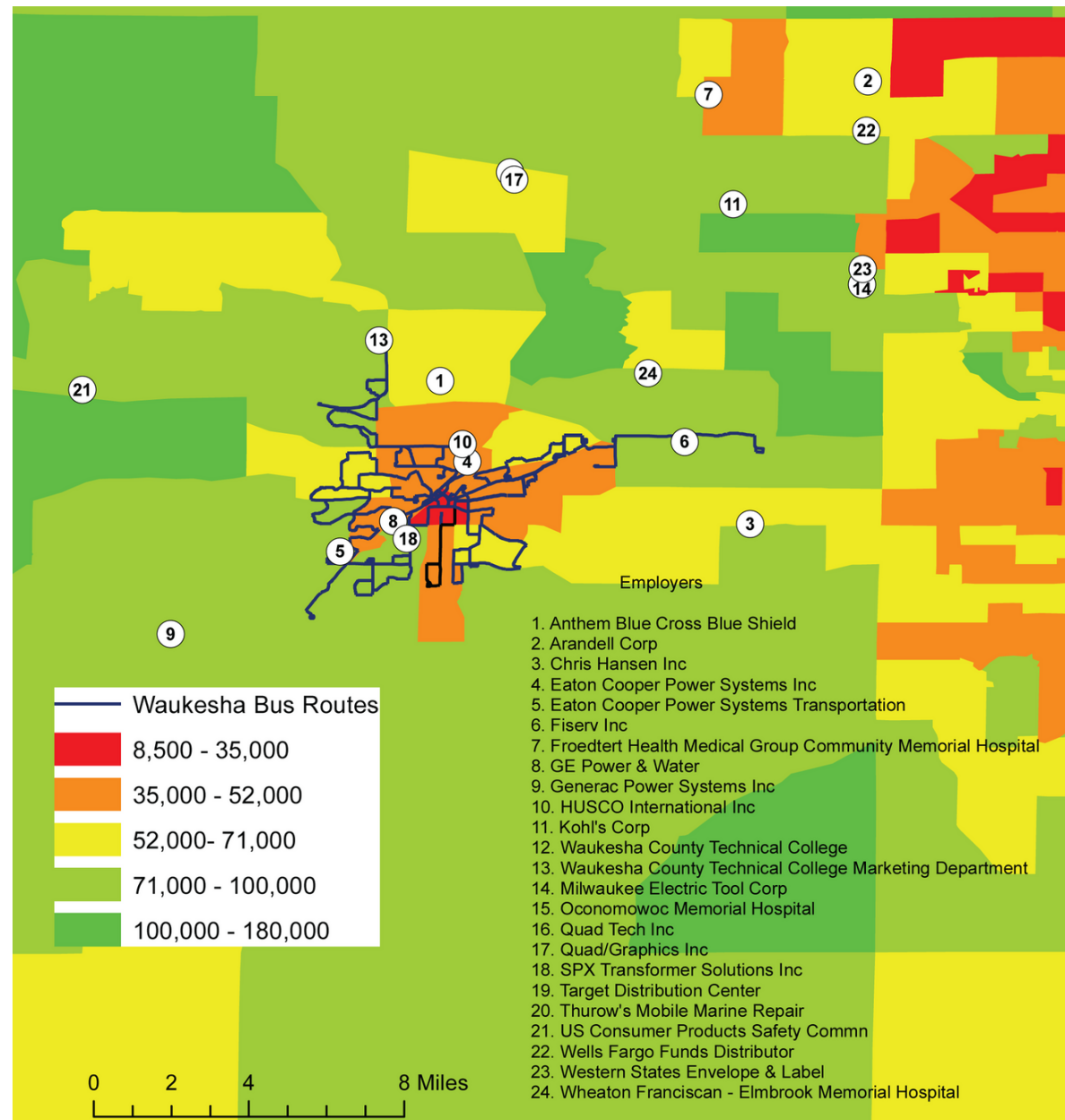
Within the county, there are many areas with available jobs that are not served by transit. Regionally, it is challenging and time-consuming for workers from Milwaukee to reach jobs in Waukesha. For Milwaukee residents who may not have reliable transportation, the lack of transit access to these industrial parks can make working there challenging, if not impossible.

An aging population is another challenge, as the number of seniors is set to double between 2015 and 2025. Having access to public transportation can help seniors live independently and in their homes longer.



TRANSIT TO WAUKESHA'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS

The map shows transit access to Waukesha's 25 largest employers as well as median income levels (taken from the 2010 US Census). Metro Transit serves the City of Waukesha and the adjacent Bluemound Road strip connecting the Brookfield Square Shopping Mall in the City of Brookfield. Waukesha Metro Transit serves the City of Waukesha and the adjacent Bluemound Road strip connecting the Brookfield Square Shopping Mall in the City of Brookfield. The Metro also makes a trip into the Village of Pewaukee to Waukesha County Technical College. While the unemployment levels in neighboring Milwaukee County are high, thousands of jobs are available in Waukesha County.



OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND SERVICE AND FUNDING

Many employers have trouble finding employees, especially in lower-paying positions, due to a lack of transportation access to their jobs, and many seniors are being left behind, especially in rural areas of the county.

Both problems could be addressed by increasing transit funding and through better regional collaboration.

Southeastern Wisconsin is the largest metropolitan area in the United States without an RTA, which could be a platform for much-needed coordination.

The map was created by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin.

For full report: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/ArriveTogetherReport

“Transit is the key for work. I have my dream job now, but couldn’t get there if not for the bus.”

David, Waukesha
(Story collected by interfaith group SOPHIA)