



Wisconsin Council of the
Blind & Visually Impaired



SIERRA CLUB
JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

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Local Leaders, Community Members to Show Gaps in Eau Claire's Transportation System

New report highlights the growing need for transit access across the state

Eau Claire, Wis. – Today transit riders, activists and transportation experts gathered to release a first-of-its-kind report, [Arrive Together: Transportation Access and Equity in Wisconsin](#), that shows how people's needs are not being met by the state's transportation system. The report examines the effectiveness of public transit access to major employers and other areas of interest in nine cities and regions across Wisconsin, including in Eau Claire.

There are parts of Eau Claire that are very underserved, including Northwestern Eau Claire, the report finds. "Transit service to areas of the city that have developed as major employment centers within the last thirty years, such as the Menard's Distribution Center, are not served by transit because state funding has not kept pace with the growing needs," said **Jeremy Gragert, a board member of the Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance, and an Eau Claire City Council member.**

Statewide, the report's authors identify a lack of transit access to school, work, the grocery store, the doctor's office, and other needs. These gaps in the transportation system disproportionately impact those who are unable to drive or cannot afford to drive - including seniors, people with disabilities, low- to middle-income Wisconsinites, and young people.

"With buses running so infrequently, and with no Sunday and limited morning and evening service, it is hard for me to get to work, school, and the grocery store," said **Brittany Christophel, a UW-Eau Claire student** in the College of Nursing, who lives without a car while working as a caregiver on the city's west side.

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. Demographic changes will likely exacerbate these challenges in the future: Statewide, communities are already struggling to meet the transportation needs of a growing population of seniors, and to retain young people who increasingly want to live in transit-friendly, walkable, bikeable towns and cities. The authors identify increased transit funding and better coordination between municipalities as viable solutions to many transportation challenges outlined in the report.

Arrive Together: Transportation Access and Equity in Wisconsin was released by [1000 Friends of Wisconsin](#), [Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance](#), [CUSH](#), [NAOMI](#), [MICAHA](#), [ESTHER](#), [Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter](#), [SOPHIA](#), [Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) and [WISDOM](#), with support from the [Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group \(WISPIRG\)](#).

To view a full copy of the report, visit sierraclub.org/Wisconsin/ArriveTogetherReport.

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