



# Milwaukee County Transit System

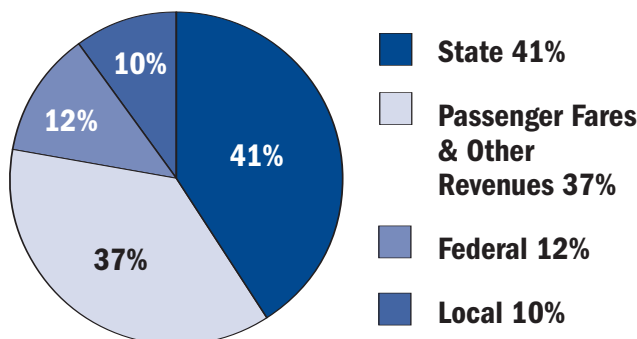
## *Providing Transportation to the Community for 150 Years*

***Employees to jobs • Customers to businesses • Students to higher education***

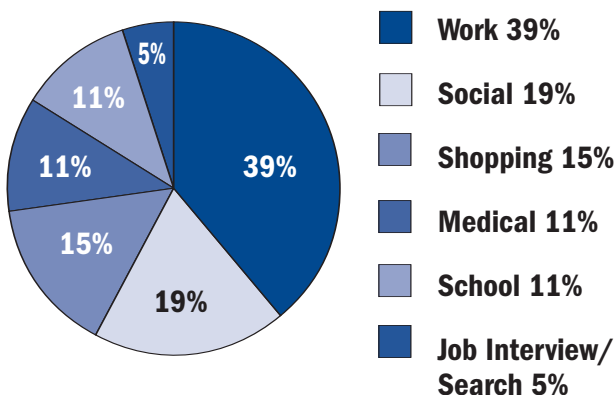
### Snap Shot of Transportation

- 46 million ridership annual
- 1 million paratransit rides for individuals with disabilities and older adults
- 30th largest transit system in the nation
- Serving Milwaukee County - population 950,000
- 52 Routes
- 5,539 bus stops

### Funding



### Reasons Millions Ride



### Supporting Current and Future Workers

Close to 45% of individuals who use transit services take the bus to work or other job-related opportunities. An additional 11% use it to access educational opportunities. 70% of the individuals that use transit do not regularly have a vehicle available to them to make that trip. More than 53,000 students a semester in the Milwaukee area have access to the UPASS program

Public transportation allows access to jobs and to employees. A study conducted by UWM estimated that over 40,000 jobs in the Milwaukee area are no longer assessable to individuals without cars because of cuts that have been made in public transportation over the last several years.

An effective transit system helps the greater Milwaukee area compete for jobs. ***Tim Sheehy; President of the Greater Milwaukee Area Chamber of Commerce has said that, "Public transportation is 'table stakes'. Businesses simply expect that it will be there in communities where they are considering locating."***

Close to 100 local businesses have chosen to put their dollars into providing discounted transit passes for employees; 3500 individuals participated in the Commuter Value Pass program through their employer. More that one million dollars has also been spent by employers on Commuter Value Certificates for employees. Businesses are investing in these products because they believe that it is a good way to attract and retain employees. It is important that transit services continue to meet the expectations of businesses that are retaining and creating employment in the state.

## **Recreation**

---

MCTS carried over 400,000 people to Summerfest and other recreational events – easing congestion and supporting the economies generated by those events.

## **Independence**

---

Public transportation allows older individuals to remain independent and supports initiatives like Family Care, which keeps people out of expensive nursing homes.

## **A Better Community**

---

Individuals who use public transportation ease congestion on our roadways; lessen our dependence on foreign oil; and contribute to a cleaner environment.

## **The State and Local Communities: Partners in Providing Public Transportation**

---

Wisconsin has been a strong partner in providing public transportation across the State.

In Milwaukee, the State investment in public transportation is approximately \$70 million per year. It is essential that that investment be maintained and expanded.

The last biennial State budget included \$6.8 billion dollars in transportation investment. Less than 5% of those dollars were spent on public transportation and transportation for elderly and disabled for communities from rural Bayfield to Milwaukee.

Milwaukee County and other local communities do not have the resources to assume additional responsibility in this area. Levy limits, expanding unemployment and increased need for social support services have left them few resources for additional investment.

It is essential that State investment in public transportation continues to be maintained.

## **An investment in public transportation is a good investment**

---

A study of the economic impacts of transit, commissioned by WISDOT concluded that every dollar invested in public transportation generates between \$3.00 - \$4.00 in benefits for the community.

The State of Wisconsin hires an independent firm to conduct a performance audit all public transit systems in the state every five years. At the last audit, MCTS was found to have the **highest ridership per capita; the lowest cost per passenger; and the lowest percentage of administrative personnel of any of our peer systems.**

MCTS has also made numerous changes in healthcare benefits, Worker's Compensation administration, fuel purchases and other areas, saving millions of dollars over the last several years. In addition, our employees contribute 15% of the cost of their retirement plan.

## **Here is what just a few of our community leaders have to say**

---

**Tom Luljak, Vice Chancellor, UWM:** “Without transit we can't get the people to our campus to do what this community needs. And that is educating more young people to become, really tomorrow's leaders.”

**Paul Renard, Senior VP M&I:** “We believe the transit system provides an effective, affordable and comfortable alternative for employees to commute to work.”  
“Having an effective mass transit system is important to the overall quality of life as well as the economic strength of our community.”

**Rick Bliss, Managing Partner, Godfrey & Kahn:** “At Godfrey and Kahn almost 12% of our employees count on the bus to get them to work every day.”

