



Madison Region Transportation Resources ***Programs, Initiatives, and Transit Systems***

Columbia County

PROGRAMS

- [Merrimac Ferry](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/water/merrimac.htm)
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/water/merrimac.htm>
The Merrimac Ferry, which crosses the Wisconsin River between Sauk and Columbia counties, is Wisconsin's only free ferry. It shuttles WIS 113 traffic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, between Okee on the east bank and Merrimac on the west.

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- Interstate 90/94; I-39
 - I-90/94 cuts across the county with several interchanges
- U.S. Highway 51
 - Part of a major 2-state corridor, USH 51 runs through the heart of the county, forming “the ribbon tying the North and the South”
- State Highways 78, 60, 33, 22, 44, 127, and 16
 - Link the county communities and the state
- Two local airports
- The main rail corridor between Chicago and the Twin Cities (C. P. Rail) runs through Columbia County with a major switching facility in Portage
- Union Pacific and Wisconsin Southern also service various communities in the county
- 3 AMTRAK stations; with ridership continuing to increase in all locations:
 - Columbus
 - Portage
 - Wisconsin Dells

Dane County

ORGANIZATIONS

[Dane Alliance for Rail Transit \(DART\)](http://www.danerail.org/)

<http://www.danerail.org/>

- DART advocates the use of rail transit to extend the regional reach, increase the level of service, and improve the overall quality of public transit in greater Madison and Dane County
- DART also supports high-quality inter-city passenger train service between Madison and other U.S. cities, along with other measures to reduce our region's dependence on the private automobile and to encourage more transit-oriented patterns of development
- DART's mission is to explore the full range of rail opportunities, from light rail to commuter rail to high speed rail, in the particular context of greater Madison's and Dane County's transportation, land use, urban design, and economic development objectives

[Madison Area Transportation Planning Board \(TPB\)](http://www.madisonareampo.org/)

<http://www.madisonareampo.org/>

- The goal of the TPB planning process is to build regional agreement on transportation investments that balance roadway, public transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and other transportation needs and support regional land use, economic, and environmental goals

- Federal law and regulations require the designation of Metropolitan Planning Organizations in urbanized areas of 50,000 or more in population as a condition for spending federal transportation funds
- Two key responsibilities of MPOs are:
 - Preparing and maintaining a long-range (20+ years) regional transportation plan (RTP)
 - Preparing and maintaining a transportation improvement program (TIP)
- The Madison Area Transportation Planning Board was previously named the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

INITIATIVES/PLANS

City of Madison Streetcar Study/Streetcar Commission

- The City of Madison has begun to study the feasibility of a modern streetcar system, envisioning a plan wherein streetcars could become part of a regional transportation system

ProRail

<http://www.prorail.com/>

- ProRail of Madison is the Madison area chapter of the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WisARP), established in 1977 to promote passenger train service in Wisconsin and the U.S.
- WisARP is the Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), which lobbies Congress on behalf of our national rail passenger system and keeps its members informed of Amtrak and transit activities, and of federal actions affecting Amtrak
- ProRail exists to promote passenger trains as a part of a balanced national transportation system

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) (proposed)

- Plan revealed by City of Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk
- Plan includes a jointly-proposed, all-purpose comprehensive, countywide, regional transit system to answer the significant transportation challenges that come with a growing population countywide
- Plan would provide transportation infrastructure to the entire region through enhanced bus service, commuter rail, bike transit systems, countywide paratransit services and road maintenance

Regional Transportation Plan 2030

<http://www.madisonareampo.org/Plan%20Elements/toc.pdf>

- Prepared by the MPO (Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization)
- Key recommendations include:
 - Provide mode choice options (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, arterial street and roadway facilities)
 - Continue to make the most efficient use of the existing transportation system
 - Better connect East-West Transit Corridor, with eventual expansion to other corridors
 - Expansion of commuter transit services, express buses and park-and-ride facilities
 - Continue to accept somewhat higher congestion levels (Level of Service D)
 - Develop a continuous, interconnected bicycle way network and pedestrian facility network
 - Recognize limited financial sources available and continue to investigate alternative means to finance transportation improvements and maintenance

Transport 2020

<http://www.transport2020.net/>

- Transport 2020 is a study of transportation improvement alternatives for the Dane County/ Greater Madison Metropolitan Area

- The Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force - made up of City of Madison, Dane County, state, university, and community representatives - has selected Alternative 2A (Middleton-Sun Prairie) as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
- LPA will be forwarded to the Federal Transit Administration in a request to proceed to Preliminary Engineering

[Platinum Biking City Planning Committee](#)

<http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/trafficEngineering/bicyclingPlatinum.cfm>

- In the fall of 2006, Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz formed the Platinum Biking City Planning Committee with the overall goals of:
 - Achieving the Platinum designation level through the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Communities program
 - Putting forward a roadmap for Madison to become the best city in the country for bicycling
- The report is currently in draft form and awaiting public feedback

PROGRAMS

[Community Car](#)

<http://www.communitycar.com/>

- Community Car is a member-based, "time-share" car service
- Members use vehicles when they want to and pay for the service based on how much they drive
- Carsharing provides a way to reduce the number of cars in an urban area and supports a practical shift towards sustainable mobility and away from automobile dependency

[Smart Commute](#)

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/Committees/MetroLongRange/MoreInfo/Feb07/SmartCommuteInitiative.pdf>

- Madison became the first Wisconsin community, and one of the first in the country, to offer Smart Commute mortgages
- Along with Mayor Cieslewicz, Fannie Mae, local banks, Madison Gas and Electric, and Community Car, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin helped take this innovative program from idea to reality

[Sun Prairie Shared-Ride Taxi Voucher Program](#)

http://www.sun-prairie.com/docs/category.php?department_id=22&category_id=2695

- Initial county grant (\$8,000 per year) used to fund voucher program
- Program geared towards elderly people in community on fixed-incomes who can't drive and who have difficulty getting to medical appointments, etc.
- Residents who qualify can purchase one-way taxi vouchers at a reduced rate

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- Interstate Highways 90 and 94
- U.S. Highways 12, 14, 18, 51, 151
- State Highways 19, 30, 69, 51, 14, 73, 92 and 113
- [Dane County Regional Airport](#) - Gateway to the Capital Region
<http://www.msnairport.com/>
 - *Commercial:* ATA Connection, American Eagle, COMAIR, Continental Express, MESABA, Midwest Express, Northwest, TransWorld Express, United Airlines, United Express, Skyway, US Airways Express
 - *Communities Served Nonstop:* Chicago (2 airports), Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Detroit, La Guardia, New York, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, St. Louis
 - *Air Cargo:* Federal Express, Airborne

- Other Airports (Local, Municipal, Military):
 - Army National Guard Heliport (Madison)
 - Blackhawk Airfield (Madison)
 - Gonstead Field (Mount Horeb)
 - Jana Airport (Edgerton)
 - Middleton Municipal – Morey Field (Middleton)
 - Quam’s Marina Seaplane Base (Stoughton)
 - Verona Air Park (Verona)
 - Waunakee Airport (Waunakee)
- Bus Service
 - Intercity
 - [Badger Coaches, Inc.](http://www.badgerbus.com/)
 - [Greyhound Bus Lines](http://www.greyhound.com/)
 - [Van Galder/Alco Bus Company](http://www.coachusa.com/vangalder/)
 - Intracity
 - [Madison Metro](http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/metro/)
 - [Bicycles on Metro/Rack-N-Roll Program](http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/Metro/RackRoll/BikeRacks.html)
 - Metro+Plus
 - [Monona Express](http://www.monona.wi.us/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7B8FA9E8F5-6C05-4A7D-B245-469ED6632FC6%7D)

The Monona Express is an express commuter service running between the City of Monona and the downtown Madison / UW-Madison areas. No stops are made between the Monona city limits and the downtown Madison area

Dodge County

PROGRAMS

- Watertown Shared-Ride Taxi System

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- US Highways 41, 151
- State Highways 33, 73, 19, 60, 16, 67, 28, 49, 68, 26, 175
- Dodge County Local Airport (Juneau)
- Canadian Pacific, Union Pacific, Canadian National and Wisconsin & Southern railroads
- Amtrak service is available in Columbus with connections to Minneapolis/St. Paul and Chicago

Green County

PROGRAMS

- Monroe Shared-Ride Taxi System
- [Bike Green County](http://www.greencounty.org/bike_ride.html)

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- I-90/94/39 (20 miles east of county line)
 - State Highways 11, 59, 69, 81, 104
 - Illinois State Highway 20 (12 miles south of county line)
 - Monroe Municipal Airport (Local)
 - Brodhead Airport (Private, EAA)
 - Wisconsin & Southern Railroad
 - Sugar River Trail (primarily bicycle)
 - Badger Trail (primarily bicycle)
 - Cheese Country Trail (multi-use/ATV)
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Iowa County

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- US Highways 151, 18, 23, 80, 14
 - State Highways 80, 133, 130, 23, 39, 191, 18
 - Iowa County Airport (Mineral Point)
 - Dodgeville Municipal Airport (Dodgeville)
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Jefferson County

PROGRAMS

- Jefferson Shared-Ride Taxi
- Lake Mills Shared-Ride Taxi
- Waterloo Shared-Ride Taxi
- Watertown Shared-Ride Taxi

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- I – 94
 - US 12, 18
 - State Highways 19, 89, 16, 59, 26, 106
 - Fort Atkinson Municipal Airport (Fort Atkinson)
 - Gutzmer's Twin Oaks Airport (Whitewater)
 - Palmyra Municipal Airport (Palmyra)
 - Watertown Municipal Airport (Watertown)
 - McDermott Airpark/Ideal Helicopter Service (Palmyra)
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Rock County

PROGRAMS

[Rock County RIDES Program](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/Aging/RIDES.htm)

<http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/Aging/RIDES.htm>

- Transportation, for medical appointments only, is coordinated through volunteer drivers who offer their time and use of their own car
- Volunteer driver escort program for transportation outside of Rock County is also available
- Boundaries for transportation are to Madison, Milwaukee, Monroe or Rockford, Illinois

[Rock County Specialized Transit](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/Aging/SpecialTransit.htm)

<http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/Aging/SpecialTransit.htm>

- Rock County provides specialized transportation services which are designed for use by elderly or disabled persons
- To be eligible for specialized transit services, an individual must be at least 55 years of age or be disabled
- Transportation services are provided to all areas within Rock County in vans that are equipped to handle wheelchairs

Edgerton Shared-Ride Taxi

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- I-39/I-90 & I-43
- USH 14 & USH 51
- 7 State Highways: 11, 26, 59, 81, 104, 138, 140 & 213
- 3 Rail Providers – UPRR, WSOR, and CP
- Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport (JVL)
- Beloit Airport (Beloit)
- Beloit Transit System (BTS)
- Janesville Transit System (JTS)
- Beloit-Janesville Express (BJE)
- Van Galder/Coach USA
- Greyhound

Sauk County

ORGANIZATIONS

[Pink Lady Rail Transit Commission](http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/dept/UW/pink_lady/index.htm)

http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/dept/UW/pink_lady/index.htm

To ensure a future of rail service in Sauk County, the Pink Lady Rail Transit Commission (PLRTC) was formed in 1987. 'The purpose of the PLRTC is to take what steps that may be necessary and desirable to ensure rail service along the Union Pacific line from Madison to Reedsburg.'

[Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission](http://www.wrrtc.org/)

<http://www.wrrtc.org/>

Counties in southern Wisconsin have been working together since the mid 1970s to ensure that active rail is preserved. Wisconsin's original rail assistance program was created in 1977 to help preserve freight rail service during an era when widespread railroad bankruptcies and line abandonments threatened the availability of rail service in Wisconsin. In southwestern Wisconsin, the Lone Rock to Prairie du Chien line was filed for abandonment by the Milwaukee Road in late 1978.

In response, **Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Richland**, and **Sauk** counties began meeting to discuss possible actions to preserve rail service. The Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission (WRRTC) was formed in March of 1980 as a proactive option for saving its first corridor — the Prairie du Chien to Madison line.

PROGRAMS

- "Get Out and Go" Taxi Reduction Program (Baraboo Senior Transportation Taxi Pilot Program)
- Baraboo Taxi Service
- Reedsburg Cab Service (Shared-Ride Taxi)
- Sauk Prairie Transit Service (Shared-Ride Taxi and Van)
- Dells Taxi Service

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- I 90/94
 - US 12 & 14
 - STH 23, 33, 60, 78, 113, 58, 123, 136, 154, 159 (Includes Merrimac Ferry – Col-Sac III)
 - Wisconsin & Southern Railway – Baraboo, Rock Springs, Reedsburg, BAAP, Spring Green
 - 4 General Aviation Airports:
 - Baraboo/Dells
 - Reedsburg Municipal
 - Sauk Prairie
 - Tri-County Regional (Lone Rock)
 - [Rail](#)
<http://www.wsorrrailroad.com/>
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSORR) currently serves the cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, Lone Rock, Spring Green, and the Town of Prairie du Sac in Sauk County.
 - [Ice Age Trail – Baraboo Hills Chapter](#)
<http://www.devilslakewisconsin.com/iceage/>
One of only eight national scenic trails in the U.S., the Ice Age Trail spans approximately 1200 miles in Wisconsin. Currently, only about 575 miles of the trail are open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing. Established in 1958, the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization whose mission is to preserve Wisconsin's cultural and glacial heritage for the education and enjoyment for present and future generations. The organization has 24 chapters, including the Baraboo Hills Chapter, and over 5,000 members.
 - [400 State Trail](#)
<http://www.400statetrail.org/>
The 400 State Trail is located between Reedsburg and Elroy with 5 communities conveniently spaced along the trail to provide small town hospitality. The Trail Headquarters is located in the historic depot in Reedsburg. The communities located along the trail between Reedsburg and Elroy are La Valle - 7 miles from Reedsburg, Wonewoc - 7 miles from La Valle, and Union Center - 4 miles from Wonewoc or Elroy.
 - Trucking
 - Motor Carriers – 7
 - Local Terminals – 3Four major LTL Common Carriers serve Sauk County. They are Mid-States, Roadway, Yellow and Conway. Three full-load - over the road companies have their headquarters in and around Sauk County. Those companies are Deppe Transit, Baraboo; Fuchs, Inc., Sauk City and Skinner Transfer, Reedsburg.
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Regional

ORGANIZATIONS

[1000 Friends of Wisconsin](#)

<http://www.1kfriends.org/>

- 1000 Friends of Wisconsin educates the citizens and policy makers of Wisconsin about the benefits of sound land use planning
- Advocates for state and local land use policies that protect diverse natural communities, promotes the preservation of productive farmland and livable communities, and provides for the kinds of development and growth that most efficiently use taxpayers' investments

[Midwest High Speed Rail Association](#)

<http://www.midwesthsr.org/>

- The Midwest High Speed Rail Association is a membership-based nonprofit organization advocating the development of fast, frequent and dependable passenger trains linking the entire Midwest
- Goal is to build a broad base of support for major changes in passenger rail policies

[Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin \(TDA\)](http://www.tdawisconsin.org/)

<http://www.tdawisconsin.org/>

- TDA is a statewide nonprofit organization working to promote understanding of the crucial role that a safe, efficient and reliable transportation system plays both in providing mobility for the people of Wisconsin and in driving the growth of our state's economy
- Now in its fourth decade, TDA represents the interests of more than 400 member organizations working to ensure the vitality of the state's transportation network

[Wisconsin Rural and Paratransit Providers \(WRAPP\)](http://www.witransportation.com/wrapp/)

<http://www.witransportation.com/wrapp/>

- WRAPP is an organization of specialized transportation providers organized to provide a resource network for all providers in the State of Wisconsin
- The goal is to create greater public awareness and community support of rural and specialized transportation programs

[Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association](http://www.witransportation.com/wurta/index.htm)

<http://www.witransportation.com/wurta/index.htm>

- The Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association represents 28 urban and rural bus systems, 43 shared-ride taxi systems and 24 associate and affiliate members in the state of Wisconsin
- It employs more than 2,900 transit workers statewide, including drivers, mechanics, dispatchers and administrative staff

INITIATIVES/PLANS

[Connections 2030](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/connections2030.htm)

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/connections2030.htm>

- Connections 2030 is a long-range transportation plan developed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the state
- This plan will address all forms of transportation over a 25-year planning horizon: highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and transit
- The overall goal of the planning process is to identify a series of policies to aid transportation decision-makers when evaluating programs and projects

[Midwest Regional Rail Initiative](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/onepagere/midwest.html)

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/onepagere/midwest.html>

- The Midwest Regional Rail Initiative is a nine-state partnership of Departments of Transportation working to create 3000 miles of passenger rail service, including seven high speed rail spurs extending from a hub in Chicago

PROGRAMS

[Southeast Wisconsin Rideshare Program: Rideshare Etc. Online & State Vanpool](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/commuter/rs-index.htm)

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/commuter/rs-index.htm>

- Rideshare Etc. Online is a service sponsored by the City of Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Southeast Wisconsin Rideshare program
- Website matches Rideshare customers with other customers that live and work in the same area
- Service area: southern two-thirds of Wisconsin and the far northern counties of Illinois
- Riders may be state or non-state employees

TRANSIT SYSTEMS

- [AMTRAK](http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=Amtrak/HomePage)
<http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=Amtrak/HomePage>
- [Badger Coaches, Inc.](http://www.badgerbus.com/)
<http://www.badgerbus.com/>
- [Greyhound Bus Lines](http://www.greyhound.com/)
<http://www.greyhound.com/>
- [Van Galder/Alco Bus Company](http://www.coachusa.com/vangalder/)
<http://www.coachusa.com/vangalder/>
- [Dane County Regional Airport](http://www.msnairport.com/) - Gateway to the Capital Region
<http://www.msnairport.com/>
 - *Commercial:* ATA Connection, American Eagle, COMAIR, Continental Express, MESABA, Midwest Express, Northwest, TransWorld Express, United Airlines, United Express, Skyway, US Airways Express
 - *Communities Served Nonstop:* Chicago (2 airports), Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Detroit, La Guardia, New York, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, St. Louis
 - *Air Cargo:* Federal Express, Airborne

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