

Downtown Madison, Inc. (DMI)
Transportation for ALL
June, 2017

Great cities are planned and developed so that all of their citizens have easy access to their place of work, their vital health & government services; and also to bring people together for play, learning, shopping, the arts and community. This will not occur, however, unless the public streets, sidewalks, bike pathways and other public spaces serve the needs of the people who live in and visit them. Great cities have learned that in order to create a city that is for everyone, they need to have a robust multi-modal transportation system that consists of and recognizes all modes of transportation.

Following Madison's goal of being a great city that is for everyone, we need to start by legitimizing and encouraging all modes of transportation—automobiles, public transit, walking, bicycling, paratransit, delivery trucks, emergency vehicles, and other modes to come. As all of these transportation modes gain respect and legitimacy, our streets, bike pathways, sidewalks, public spaces, and transportation infrastructure will adapt to the needs of the community. They will reflect the needs of all people more equitably and contribute to an increase in commerce while striking a new and equitable balance. They will be inviting to all, promoting universal accessibility, ease of use, safety, lively urban place-making, and economic development.

Our vision includes that sidewalks will be ample, clean, well maintained during winter weather and well-lit with the appropriate signals at crosswalks; our streets and bike pathways may include segregated, well-lit terraced bicycle lanes with the appropriate pedestrian and bicycle signals at crossings; Madison Metro will have a wider reach in order to service all citizens of our community, including segregated lanes; trucks will be able to deliver goods safely; and emergency vehicles will have safe access. The system will respect all modes of transportation as equals and all of our citizens' needs.

Our transportation paradigm needs to respect and legitimize all modes of transportation and all needs of our community members to provide safe, welcoming, and accessible streets, sidewalks, and public spaces with safe transportation options.