



SAMPLE: Letter to the editor

INSTRUCTIONS: If you wish, use the letter below as a guide and write to your local paper. It's a great way to help publicize Wisconsin Transit Week and promote transit in your community!

Dear Editor,

In recognition of the key role that public transit systems play in Wisconsin's economy, environment and quality of life, Governor Jim Doyle has officially proclaimed that May 18-24 is Wisconsin Transit Week. It's my pleasure to call attention to the many benefits that bus systems and other public transit options offer here and to communities throughout our state and nation.

For instance:

- Public transportation is energy-efficient transportation. Each year, public transportation use in the United States saves the equivalent of 34 supertankers of oil – that's a supertanker leaving the Middle East every 11 days.
- Wisconsin's transit systems employ more than 3,000 workers and provide more than 73 million rides each year, helping people get to work, access health care, do their shopping, and visit family and friends.

I'm also happy to point out that, along with buses, public transit options in Wisconsin include the shared-ride taxi services which are so helpful in rural areas, and the specialized paratransit and medical transportation companies which offer mobility and freedom to elderly and differently abled citizens. In fact, more than 9.7 million transit rides in Wisconsin last year were related to health-care. Together, these transit services provide urban centers and small communities alike with affordable and convenient alternatives to car travel.

For more information on Wisconsin Transit Week and to view Governor Doyle's proclamation, visit the Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin Web site at www.tdawisconsin.org.

Wisconsin's transit systems help ease traffic congestion, improve air quality, reduce gasoline consumption, create economic opportunity, and enhance our state's quality of life. I hope you'll join me in supporting Wisconsin Transit Week and our community's transit system.

Sincerely,