



Milwaukee County Transit System 2025 Fact Sheet

Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) is known for supporting mobility and economic vitality across the region.

It stands out for serving 19 municipalities in a major economic hub in the state. Milwaukee County is home to over 20,000 employers, spanning industries from healthcare and manufacturing to finance and education. MCTS connects the workforce to such large employers as:

- Advocate Aurora Health
- Amazon
- Baird
- City of Milwaukee
- GE Healthcare
- Harley Davidson
- Milwaukee Regional Medical Center
- Northwestern Mutual
- Potawatomi
- The Marcus Corporation
- Molson Coors
- Rockwell Automation

Source: U.S. Census

“As a large employer in downtown Milwaukee, it is incumbent on us to be able to attract, retain, develop, and advance talent. We need that talented, diverse staff to be able to get to our campuses and so MCTS is an important part of that equation in order for us to be successful.”

— Robert Wilks, Northwestern Mutual
Assistant Director of Enterprise, Security, Transportation and Parking

Modernizing Fare Collection Across the State

MCTS took the lead in fare collection across Wisconsin by launching WisGo. This transition to a standard payment method between public transit agencies represents a major leap forward. Together, these agencies—which represent more than 70% of the state’s public transit—have powered 14 million transactions statewide in 2025 alone. The momentum continues as WisGo public transit agency partners in Appleton, Beloit, Oshkosh, Racine, and Waukesha, will soon join MCTS in offering payment by credit card or debit card, Google Pay or Apple Pay, smartwatches and more.

MCTS BY THE NUMBERS

20,000
employers served

65,000
public school students

25 million
rides

378
clean diesel and battery
electric buses

1.3 million
bus service hours

16.9 million
total vehicle miles

3,700
bus stops

49
routes

1,080
MCTS employees

385,602
paratransit van rides

New Bus Operator and Mechanic Apprenticeships Boost the Workforce

When it comes to employment, state workforce leaders have identified the MCTS apprenticeship model as one they hope other public transit agencies across Wisconsin will replicate to address the statewide shortage of public transit workers.



First Bus Rapid Transit Service in Wisconsin

MCTS introduced the state's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service in 2023. The CONNECT 1 BRT is a 9-mile route that emulates a rail line but uses the cost efficiencies of a bus. The BRT offers unique features such as dedicated lanes (instead of rails), elevated stations, and Real-Time Signs, similar to rail service, connecting people to work, schools and hospitals faster. That's important in a hard-working city like Milwaukee.

Making Public Transit More Accessible

MCTS takes pride in being accessible to all riders. Our buses feature equipment designed to assist passengers of all abilities. MCTS recently updated 3,700 bus stop signs to make them more visible plus more concrete ADA pads. In addition, Transit Plus provided 386,000 van rides to people with qualifying disabilities in 2025.



Nationally Recognized Bus Operators



"Bus Driver Runs to Save Child Hit by Car"

"Bus Operator Rescues Homeless Man"

"Bus Driver Saves Freezing Baby Walking Alone on Highway"

Major news sources have recognized MCTS bus operators for their big and small acts of kindness. We call these everyday acts of heroism MCTS Excellence.

50th Anniversary

MCTS marked a significant milestone in 2025 — 50 years since Milwaukee County acquired the public transit system, renamed it, and established an operating entity to run it. Since 1975, the county's investment has helped connect people to jobs, schools, grocery shopping and medical appointments.

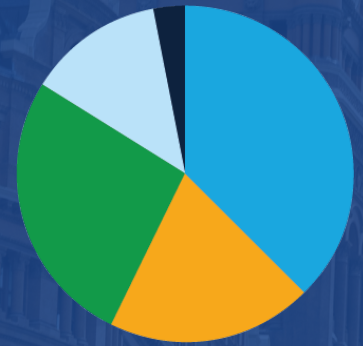


Removing Barriers to Education

Access to transportation is a top barrier to education. MCTS connects high school and college students across the county to education opportunities, helping develop and strengthen the local workforce.

2025 REVENUE

MCTS is the largest transit system in the state, serving 242 square miles across 19 municipalities.



\$186,265,233

38% State
\$69,967,400

20% Federal
\$36,443,000

27% Local
\$50,717,623

13% Passenger Revenue
\$24,219,939

3% Other
\$4,917,272

Despite being one of the only major public transit systems in the country without a dedicated source of funding, MCTS continues to serve as a leader in public transit.