

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN



CITATION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS; Week Without Driving is a national initiative challenging elected officials, decision-makers, and members of the public to experience a week without driving to better understand how decisions about transportation planning, funding, and operations affect non-drivers, in our communities; and

WHEREAS; access to convenient, safe, affordable mobility is a fundamental part of thriving communities, allowing Wisconsin residents and visitors to reach education, employment, medical services, shopping, recreation, and social activities, and to participate in civic life; and

WHEREAS; an estimated 31 percent of Wisconsinites are non-drivers, including aging adults, students, low-income individuals, people with physical, mental or intellectual/developmental disabilities, and people who prefer not to drive; and

WHEREAS; all Wisconsinites will, at some time in their lives and for a variety of reasons, be unable to drive and will face the challenges of navigating a transportation system designed mainly around driving; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has a statewide long-range multimodal transportation plan, Connect 2025, that includes goals and objectives aimed at maximizing the safe and efficient movement of people throughout the state and enhancing transportation accessibility; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) formed the Wisconsin Non-Driver Advisory Committee (WiNDAC) in spring 2020 as an advisory forum to discuss transportation mobility, safety and access for Wisconsin's non-driving populations; and

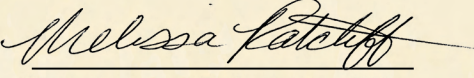
WHEREAS; the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics estimates the average cost of owning and operating an automobile in 2024 was \$12,296, and shows that this cost has increased annually since 2017; and

WHEREAS; U.S. households paid on average \$13,174 for transportation in 2023, making it the second largest per annum household expenditure and one that many people cannot afford; and

WHEREAS; attempting a week without driving can be a transformative experience, reminding us that mobility is a human right and providing firsthand insights into the daily realities faced by non-driving constituents, neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members; and

WHEREAS; Week Without Driving is widely supported and recognized by various institutions and organizations including: AARP Wisconsin, Access to Independence, Bike Fitchburg, Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission, Dane Alliance for Rational Transportation, Downtown Madison Inc., Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization, La Crosse Area Transit Advocates, Madison Bikes, Madison Central Lions Club, Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, University of Wisconsin – Madison Transportation Services, University of Wisconsin – Stout, Wisconsin Bike Federation, Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Wisconsin Transit Riders Alliance, and 1000 Friends of Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Senator Melissa Ratcliff, do hereby celebrate September 29-October 5, 2025, as Week Without Driving, and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.


State Senator Melissa Ratcliff
16th Senate District