

# Women's Transit Authority



A Rape Prevention Ride Service Run by Women

## HELP WTA STOP CITY FUNDING CUTS

Dear Friends and Supporters of WTA:

I am writing to ask that you spend a little time to help Women's Transit Authority retain its current level of funding from the City of Madison. The City's Community Services Commission has proposed that the City reduce WTA's funding by \$20,000 for 1989. We need to let the Mayor and City Council know that WTA cannot provide the same level of service with continued funding cuts. With this funding cut, the City will have reduced WTA's funding by 50% in only three years.

### THE CITY'S CONCERNS:

1. Women's Transit Authority does not do enough fundraising on its own.
2. Women's Transit Authority's cost per ride is too high.
3. Women's Transit Authority has high administrative costs.
4. Women's Transit Authority should collect \$.75 from each rider to defray lost revenue.

### WOMEN'S TRANSIT AUTHORITY'S RESPONSES TO THESE CONCERNS:

1. In 1987 we increased our fundraising revenues from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the year. This year we have already raised over \$10,000 and expect to raise over \$21,000 for the year.
2. Women's Transit Authority provides a distinctly different service than mass transit and our cost per ride cannot be compared to it. We can compare the cost of our rides to what one sexual assault costs taxpayers, which is conservatively estimated at \$2,000. This cost does not take into account the trauma and disruption an assault brings to the life of every woman who experiences it.
3. Women's Transit Authority responded in 1987 by cutting our three person staff to two and one-half staff positions. In spite of this reduction, WTA gave 28,600 rides in 1987, 2,000 more than in 1986.
4. Although WTA encourages rider donations, it would be entirely unworkable to collect a fare for every ride given. WTA believes that women in dangerous situations shouldn't have to be concerned with money. And, many of WTA's riders simply cannot afford to pay for every ride. 80% of the women who use Women's Transit have annual incomes of less than \$10,000 a year, and 60%, less than \$5,000 a year. 16% of our riders are children under 12. In addition, the presence of money in the cars poses a threat to the safety of our drivers.

Office (608) 256-3710  
Ride Service (608) 263-1700

*Mary -  
I'd like to  
talk to you  
about this -  
I'll call you.  
Buckley*

6 N. Brooks Street  
Madison, WI 53715

August 9, 1988

August 9, 1988  
City Budget Information

Because you have expressed your support for the service we provide by donating your time or money in the past, we are asking for your assistance now. You can help Women's Transit Authority continue to provide safe nighttime transportation to the women of Madison.

Please take the following actions:

1) Call the Mayor's Office at 266-4611 between 8:30 and 4:30, weekdays. Leave a message for Mayor Sensenbrenner that you support City funding for WTA and encourage him to restore funding to 1988 levels, \$70,000.

PLEASE MAKE THIS CALL IN AUGUST

2) Call your City alderperson at 266-4071. Tell the Council secretary that you want to leave a message that you support City funding for WTA at 1988 levels, that you oppose the proposed cut, and that you encourage them to vote in favor of WTA. You may also want to state briefly why you think WTA is important to Madison. Or you can write your alderperson at:

Council Office  
City County Building, Room 107B  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, Wisconsin 53710

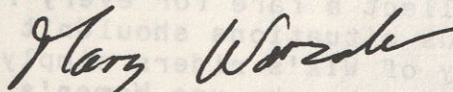
PLEASE MAKE THESE CALLS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

In addition to taking the above-mentioned actions, some of you may want to call your alderperson at home. You can obtain their phone number from the council office at 266-4071. If you do call them, please be polite and relatively brief - your call is more effective that way.

If you have any questions, please call the WTA office at 256-3710 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Thank you for your concern about Women's Transit Authority and your commitment to women's safety in the Madison Community.

Sincerely,



Mary Worzala  
President  
WTA Board of Directors

*P.S. Letters to the editor would help us too!*

## Facts about WTA's City Funding

	City Funding	Total Budget (rounded to nearest thousand)
1983 Actual	\$102,337	\$173,000
1984 Actual	\$100,000	\$159,000
1985 Actual	\$ 99,000	\$166,000
1986 Actual	\$ 97,000	\$160,000
1987 Actual	\$ 87,000	\$154,000
1988 Operating	\$ 70,000	\$160,000
1989 PROPOSED*	\$ 50,000	\$171,000

\*WTA proposed \$75,000

### Number of Rides

1983	35,555	
1984	30,461	
1985	26,574	
1986	26,104	
1987	28,633	
1988 estimated	28,000	
1989 estimated without cut	29,000	with cut 24,000