

Request for Feedback from Other Wisconsin Transit Systems Regarding Strollers

We sent the following e-mail to other transit systems in Wisconsin to solicit their feedback about the stroller issue in their area.

Hello all –

Metro Transit has been reviewing the safety issues involved with strollers and grocery carts (other large items too) being brought onto Metro buses.

We are proposing an enforcement change to our current policy that states:

- For the safety of all passengers, including children in strollers, please remove child and fold strollers during ride.
- Strollers should not block aisles.
- Please move strollers to make room for seniors and those with disabilities.
- Grocery carts and other large items must not block aisles.

Our enforcement change would be that passengers unwilling or unable to adhere to rules above would not be allowed to board after a two-month transition period.

Understanding that this proposed change in enforcement will cause some concerns within the community by decreasing accessibility of our services to some customers, we are bringing this issue before our oversight committee in the form of a public hearing.

We are launching a feedback gathering campaign before the hearing. A demonstration video, an online survey, and a printed bus flyer version of the survey are available at the following link:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/stroller/index.html>

We are wondering what other transit systems are experiencing in terms of the challenges associated with people bringing strollers on buses and how you've been handling it.

Any input on this safety issue would be greatly appreciated. Specific questions are listed below, but any other input is helpful.

1. Do you currently enforce a prohibition of strollers, grocery carts and large items from being in the aisle?
2. Do you enforce a requirement that children should be removed from strollers?
3. Have you reconfigured your buses to allow for a stroller/grocery cart storage area? If so, please send a diagram if possible.
4. Do you work with local non-profits and businesses to help customers find affordable appropriate-sized strollers and grocery carts?
5. Any other information would be appreciated.

Thanks.

We received the following responses from two Wisconsin transit systems:

1. From Fond du Lac Area Transit:

Good morning all,

Our policy is very much like your proposed policy. Children must be removed from the stroller.

All large items, strollers, grocery carts, etc. must be out of the aisles and secured by the rider.

We do not have a storage area for these items, it is the responsibility of the rider to keep them in control.

2. From Green Bay Metro

1. Do you currently enforce a prohibition of strollers, grocery carts and large items from being in the aisle? **Yes**
2. Do you enforce a requirement that children should be removed from strollers? **Yes**
3. Have you reconfigured your buses to allow for a stroller/grocery cart storage area? If so, please send a diagram if possible. **No, they must be stowed between the seats.**
4. Do you work with local non-profits and businesses to help customers find affordable appropriate-sized strollers and grocery carts? **No**
5. Any other information would be appreciated. **Our customers comply with these requirements very well.**