

SMART Transit

Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit (SMART) provides public transportation, both flex-route and demand-response services, in Freeborn, Mower, Steele, and Waseca counties. SMART was created in 2014 after the Steele County Area Transit system consolidated its services with two other active transit systems in Freeborn and Mower counties. Cedar Valley Services, Inc. (CVS) serves as the grantee through the State of Minnesota. Service was added in Waseca County in 2016.

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Legislative Districts: 24A, 27A, 27B
Congressional District: 1

Hours of Operation:

Freeborn County

Monday – Friday: 5:00am – 9:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Mower County

Monday – Friday: 5:00am – 2:30am

Saturday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Sunday: 1:00pm – 5:00 pm

Steele County

Monday – Friday: 5:00am – 12:00am

Saturday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

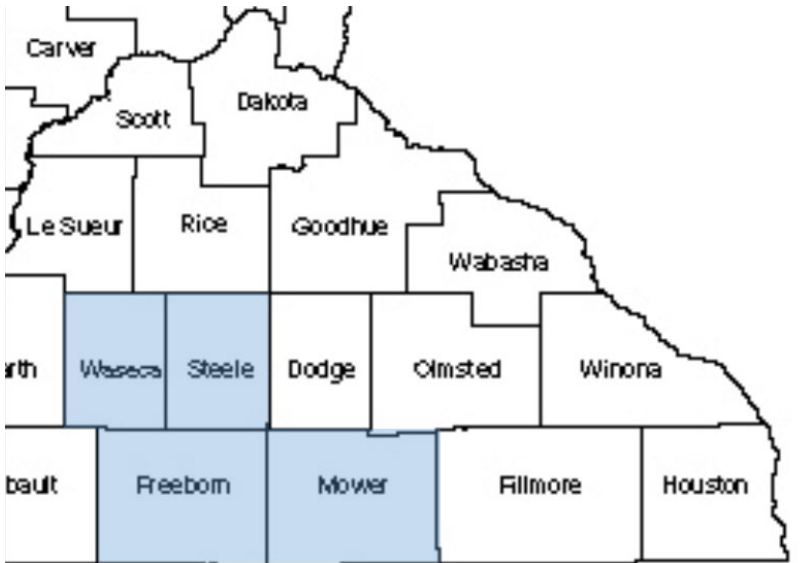
Sunday: 7:30am – 1:00pm

Waseca County

Monday – Friday: 6:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Sunday: 8am-12pm



SMART has thirty-two buses. Twenty-seven are in-service and five are spares. The vehicles have a contract year between 2006-2019. Most vehicle maintenance is outsourced.

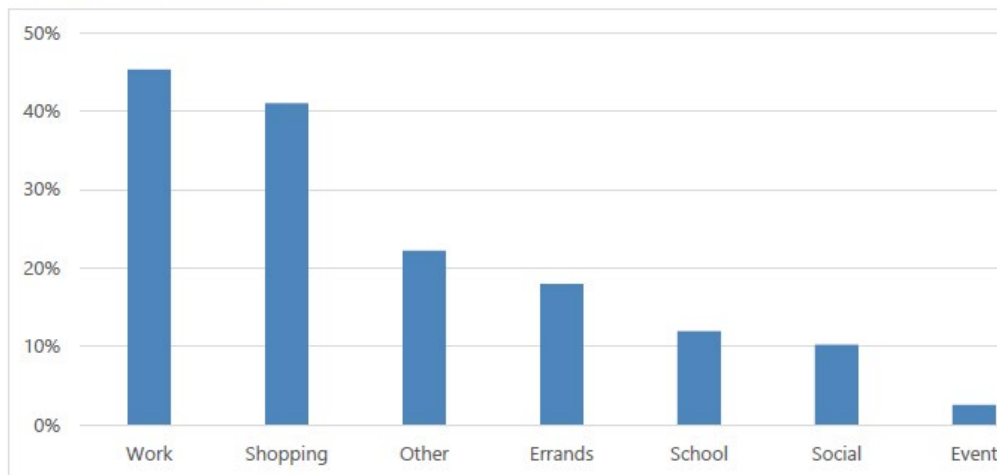
SMART operates out of four bus depots. Two depots, located in Albert Lea and Austin, are owned by CVS, while SMART leases the remaining two depots, located in Owatonna and Waseca. SMART routes operate out of facilities in Albert Lea and Austin. Both locations provide space for office operations, while the space in Austin also houses a maintenance shop and equipment.

SMART has a total of 65 employees including dispatch, administrative and management. A total of 50 drivers work for SMART, a mix of both full and part time.

Ridership

Ridership increased annually in all counties in SMART's service area since 2014. This is likely due, at least in part, to an increase in the amount of service provided during this time period. Service hours increased by 57% between 2014 and 2017, while ridership increased by 55%.

Figure 19 Respondent Trip Purpose (n=117)



Budget

A large portion of SMART's operation funding comes through state and federal grants, while farebox revenue covers nine percent and system revenue covers six percent. SMART's current budget is \$3.3 million. By 2025, their budget needs will increase to \$4.3 million.

Local Share	\$502,000
State Share	\$2,156,500
Federal Share	\$688,450

High and Medium Priority Unconstrained Needs Lists for SMART Transit

- New facility in 2022 in Owatonna for \$1.5 million
- New facility in 2025 in Waseca for \$2 million
- Remodel the Austin facility by 2023 for \$3 million
- Upgrade technology
- Additional funding of \$264,738 annually by 2025
- Replace 6 buses & purchase 3 new vehicles
- Expand service