

Public Transit

Public transit services in Region 7W are provided by four systems, as shown in **Table 8**. Annandale Heartland Express, RiverRider and TriCAP Transit Connections are classified as rural systems, while the Monticello Heartland Express is a small urban system and the Northstar Commuter Bus is commuter service operating on the Highway 10 corridor between Elk River and Minneapolis. **Figure 23** shows the public transit systems in Region 7W.

In addition to the public transit systems, there are six elderly and disabled programs; Functional Industries, Inc., Guardian Angels of Elk River, St. Benedict's Center, Options, Inc., Good Shepherd Community and Independence Center. **Table 9** is a summary of program statistics for the elderly and disabled programs within Region 7W.

Table 10 shows Region 7W unmet transit needs. An "unmet transit need" is basically any transportation need for a population group which is not being provided by an existing transit service.

In the 2001 Transit Plan, the performance target was to develop, over time, a program that meets 80 percent of the transit need in all 80 counties of Greater Minnesota by year 2010. Meeting a minimum of 90 percent of the need in all 80 counties was established as a year 2020 performance target and meeting 100 percent of the need as the year 2030 performance target.

**Table 8
Region 7W
2004 Public Transit Systems**

Provider	Service Area	Fleet Size	One-Way Passenger Trips	Service Hours
Annandale Heartland Transit	City of Annandale (w/in 15 mile radius)	4	13,412	6,590
Monticello Heartland Express	City Limits	1	10,512	2,309
RiverRider Transit	Countywide Sherburne/Wright	9	57,021	12,625
Tri-CAP Transit Connections	Countywide Benton/Stearns	10	36,819	12,742

Source: Mn/DOT Office of Transit, Transit Report 2004

**Table 9
Region 7W
2004 Elderly and Disabled Programs**

Provider	Service Area	Fleet Size	One-Way Passenger Trips	Service Hours	Vehicle Miles
Good Shepherd Community	Benton	1	4,956	418	2,824
Independence Center	Stearns	1	2,879	1,290	15,698
St. Benedict's Center	Stearns	2	9,453	1,260	12,093
Guardian Angels of Elk River	Sherburne	1	2,575	1,046	17,765
Options, Inc.	Sherburne	2	21,310	7,620	43,996
Functional Industries, Inc.	Wright	3	30,549	4,399	80,090

**Table 10
Region 7W
Transit Unmet Needs**

Annual Service Hours/Cost to Meet Performance Target									
<i>System</i>	<i>2001Hrs of Service</i>	<i>Cost to Maintain 2001 Level</i>	<i>Add'l Hrs to Reach 80%</i>	<i>Cost Add'l Hrs to 80%</i>	<i>Add'l Hrs to Reach 90%</i>	<i>Cost Add'l Hrs to 90%</i>	<i>Add'l Hrs to Reach 100%</i>	<i>Cost Add'l Hrs to 100%</i>	
Annandale Heartland Express	5,808	\$252,648	0	\$ 0	97	\$ 4,220	870	\$ 37,845	
Monticello Heartland Express	2,827	\$122,975	2,975	\$ 129,413	4,057	\$ 176,480	5,138	\$ 223,503	
RiverRider Heartland Express	19,026	\$827,631	76,647	\$3,334,145	95,146	\$4,138,851	113,644	\$4,943,514	
Tri-Cap Heartland Express	7,957	\$346,130	23,687	\$1,030,385	29,514	\$1,283,859	33,343	\$1,450,421	

Source: Greater Minnesota Public Transportation Plan 2001