

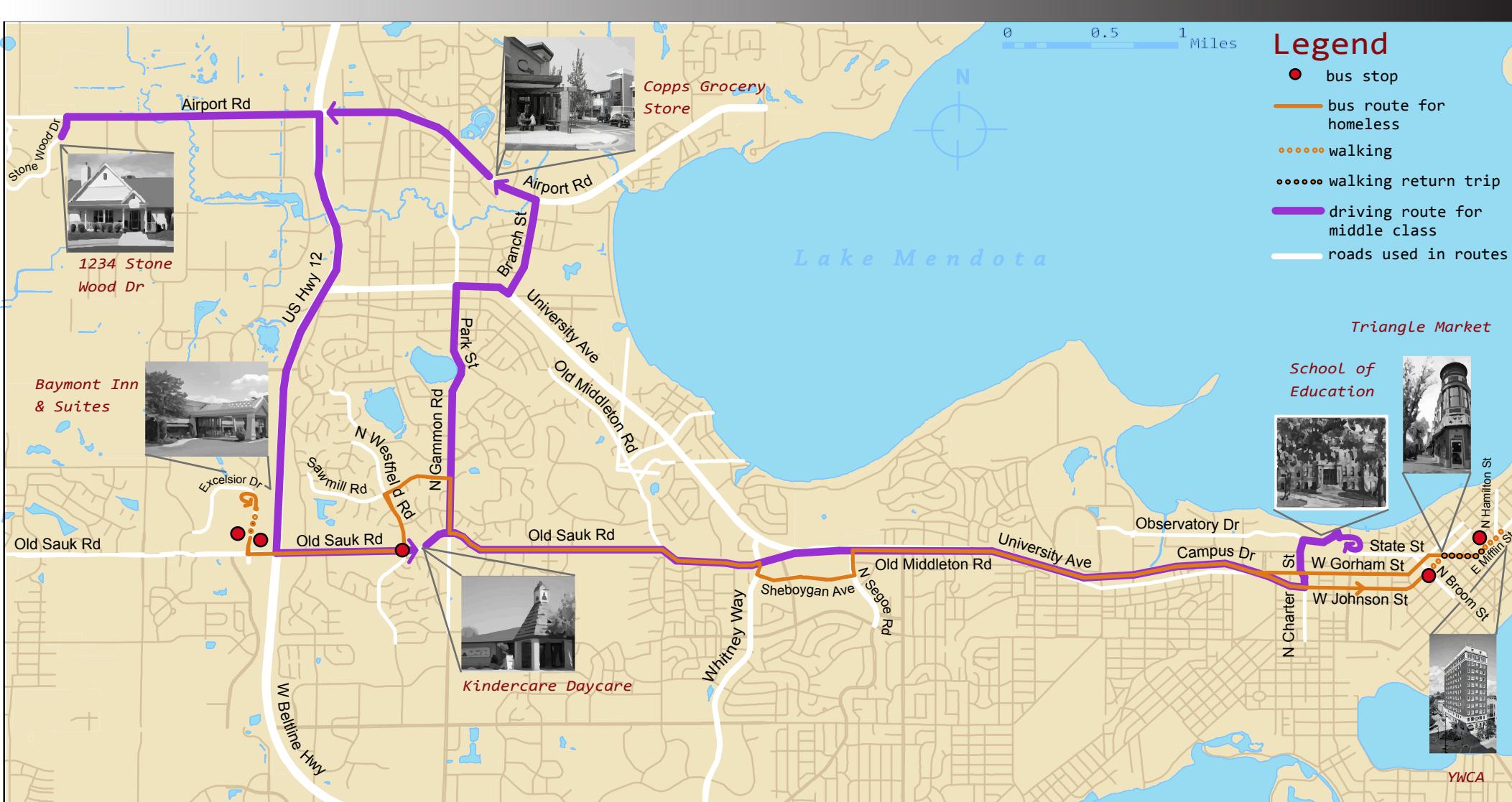


A Day in the Life

Problems in Commuting for Homeless Citizens

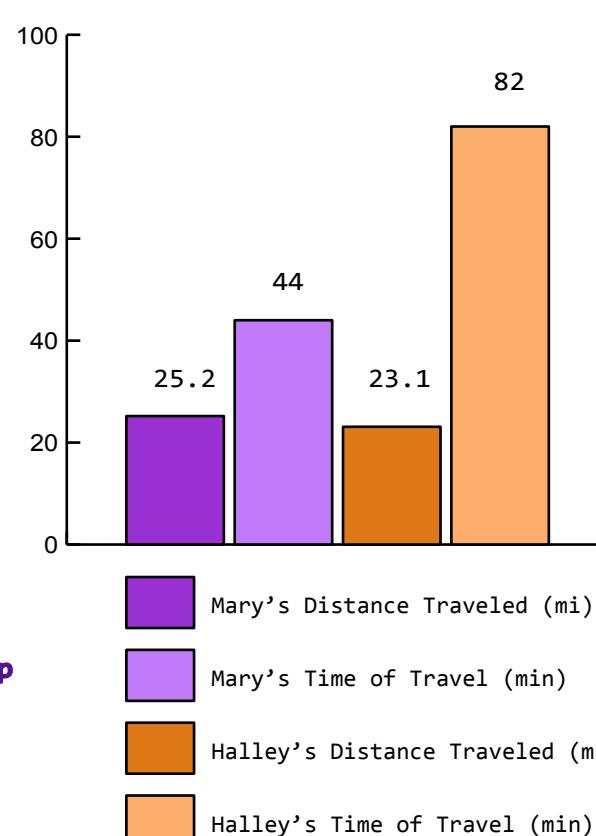


Rebecca Cooks / Geo 370 / 12-20-2013 / Lambert Conformal Conic (-89.42) / Sources: Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; Dane County files)



Middle Class Mary's Schedule

- 7:30 -- leave home to drive child to daycare
7:45 -- drive to work at the School of Education on the UW-Madison campus
8:00 -- Begin work
12:00 -- Have lunch
12:30 -- Return from lunch to finish work day
4:30 -- Leave work and drive to pick up child from daycare
4:45 -- Pick up child from daycare and drive to the grocery store to buy dinner
4:55 -- Arrive at grocery store
5:15 -- Leave grocery store and drive home
5:25 -- Arrive home with the rest of the night to make dinner, help with homework, and have free time



Homeless Halley's Schedule

- 7:00 -- leave home with child to walk to bus stop
7:12 -- take bus to daycare
7:45 -- see that child makes it into daycare and take the bus to work
7:51 -- Arrive at bus stop and walk the a few more blocks to work
8:00 -- Begin work
12:00 -- Because of time and money restraints, do not have lunch
4:00 -- Leave work and walk to bus stop
4:05 -- Take a bus to pick up child from daycare
4:11 -- Pick up child from daycare and take bus to grocery store to buy dinner
4:33 -- Arrive at bus stop and walk to grocery store
4:40 -- Arrive at grocery store
5:00 -- Leave grocery store and walk home
5:10 -- Arrive home with the rest of the night to make dinner, help with homework, and look for work and daycare closer to home

These two hypothetical situations--from home, to childcare, to work, to the grocery store, and back--represent the daily problems homeless citizens have commuting. Mary is a middle class mother living in Middleton who commutes by car. Haley is a homeless mother traveling approximately the same distance, but she relies on the bus system. Haley also lived in Middleton, but has recently become homeless and had to move to the YWCA in downtown Madison. However, her work and childcare are still in Middleton, so she must adjust accordingly to the bus system. Problems arise when bus schedules change due to a sick child, a holiday, or bad weather. These changes in turn affect the time Haley can get to work and the income for her family. It is necessary to recognize these situations so communities and organizations can assist those that need help, such as improving the bus system to the suburbs or daycares helping provide supplies that the child may need.