

goMARTI Song Contest Winner Announcement

February 3, 2023

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Grand Rapids native, Jim Cagle, wins goMARTI Song Contest

Grand Rapids, Minn. – The goMARTI self-driving shuttle project is pleased to announce Jim Cagle, a Grand Rapids native, has won the goMARTI song contest.

Jim’s song “goMARTI Is Here” is a fun song about riding the goMARTI shuttle and the benefits of having it in Grand Rapids, such as accessibility and having access to transportation if you don’t drive.

A Grand Rapids High School graduate with a Doctoral Degree in Education, Jim previously owned A1 Drivers Training and now teaches for Safety and Respect Driving School. He is also a Youth Director at Zion Lutheran Church. He has played music for 40 years and sings in a band called The Simple Guys, where he and bandmate Bill Adamson often sing about Minnesota.

“I enjoy trying to come up with rhymes that work in songs and this one had lots of criteria that needed to be included,” said Jim. “It was a challenge that I am glad I embraced!”

The song was recorded in Grand Rapids by David Copeland, and produced in the Twin Cities by Dan Solovitz at Punch Music.

Jim lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Trudy, and has five children and three grandchildren.

The goMARTI self-driving shuttle pilot is the result of a unique partnership of multiple groups with a shared goal of increasing accessibility and transportation options for residents and visitors in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The 18-month goMARTI (Minnesota’s Autonomous Rural Transit Initiative) deployment will cover nearly 17 square miles and include approximately 70 pickup and drop off points with a fleet of five May Mobility autonomous vehicles, including three wheelchair-accessible ADA compliant vehicles. The free, on-demand rides can be requested through the May app or by calling First Call 211.

To hear Jim’s song “goMARTI Is Here”:

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/6Rlwm1qffhvva2fCQigSUs>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QQbnxLZXCM>

To learn more about the goMARTI project: goMARTI.com

“goMARTI Is Here” Lyrics

Sometimes when a ride just can't be found
The folks in Grand Rapids can get you around
With routes that will take you around the town,
There's no lack of accessibility to let you down.
No matter what your age or ability,
goMarti is here to give you mobility.

Chorus:

If you don't drive, have no fear,
For shuttle service, goMARTI is here.
When you need a free ride to get somewhere,
Your friends at goMARTI will get you there.

The future of transit is now at hand,
with self-driving vehicles across the land.
There are no boundaries you cannot explore
goMARTI gives you independence and more.
So if you need a ride to get around
goMARTI is the free ride to be found

Chorus: (2x)

If you don't drive, have no fear,
For shuttle service, goMARTI is here.
When you need a free ride to get somewhere,
Your friends at goMARTI will get you there.

goMARTI! Experience self-driving in Minnesota's Nature!!

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