



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

[www.dot.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov)

Scott Walker  
Governor

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.  
Secretary

Office of the Secretary  
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 120B  
P O Box 7910  
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Telephone: 608-266-1113  
FAX: 608-266-9912  
E-mail: [sec.exec@dot.wi.gov](mailto:sec.exec@dot.wi.gov)

July 18, 2016

Michael Davies, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration - Wisconsin Division  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
525 Junction Road, Suite 8000  
Madison, WI 53717

Dear Mr. Davies:

Under provisions of Title 23, U.S.C., Section 125, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is writing to request FHWA Emergency Relief funding including a quick release of emergency relief funds needed to remedy major damages from last week's storms in Northern Wisconsin. Torrential rain, extreme runoff and flooding damaged multiple roadways, including Federal-aid highways, destroying road surface and in some cases washing away supportive earthwork. We are continuing to conduct necessary emergency operations and repairs to maintain traffic throughout the affected area.

The storming, damages and community impact were significant enough to prompt Gov. Walker to declare a state of emergency throughout eight counties. The attached photos will help to give a feel for the level of damages experienced in the affected area. We'd also note that the direct impact to the roadways has created numerous collateral damages to businesses in peak tourism season, as well as freight traffic and the movement of oversize-overweight operations.

We have had ongoing damage assessments since the time of the heaviest storming on Monday, July 11, 2016. At this time, it is not possible to provide the precise costs of repairs. However, based on preliminary review, we can confidently anticipate that damages to Federal-aid highways resulting from storming and flooding will exceed \$10,000,000. We expect to be able to provide a more accurate estimate within the next several weeks. Additional allocations may be requested as damage survey teams continue to take inventory.

Damages and closures, as well as resulting detours, involve but are not limited to:

- Portions of US 2, 53 and 63
- WIS 13, 27, 35, 77, 122, 137 and 169

In addition to the repair work on these major routes, WisDOT is working with local stakeholders to ensure the integrity of local road systems, with a serious concern placed on the increased stress created by detours. It remains our agency's priority to make necessary repairs as effectively and quickly as possible.

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Our budget for emergencies is limited and local governments have even greater financial constraints with limited cash flows available to fund emergencies. Consequently, we are requesting approval of ER funding for this disaster with quick release of emergency relief funds to allow us to proceed expeditiously with emergency repairs. Following a favorable determination of eligibility for ER funds, we will submit a detailed damage inspection report with the scope of work and cost estimate for each site as a program of projects.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Gottlieb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.  
Secretary

Attachments:

- Copy: Governor's Declaration of Emergency
- Photo examples of damages



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER #202**

**Relating to a Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency  
in Response to Flooding**

**WHEREAS**, beginning on July 11, 2016, widespread and continuing severe thunderstorms producing torrential rain, damaging winds, large hail and tornadoes have forced the evacuation of persons, downed trees and power lines, and caused flash flooding damaging roads and bridges in the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn amounting to a natural disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency responders from fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services need to respond as a result of this severe weather, including staff from Wisconsin Emergency Management, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Wisconsin State Patrol Wisconsin, the Department of Transportation, and the Wisconsin National Guard; and

**WHEREAS**, additional personnel and resources are needed to expedite the response and recovery operations in the affected area;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott Walker**, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, and specifically by Sections 321.39(1)(a), 323.10, and 323.12 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn Counties, Wisconsin; and
2. Direct all state agencies of the State of Wisconsin to assist the above referenced counties as appropriate in this response and recovery effort; and
3. Call to state active duty such elements of the Wisconsin National Guard as the Adjutant General deems necessary to assist civil authorities for purposes of assisting in response and recovery as well as providing security and other essential services; and
4. Authorize the Adjutant General to use personnel called to state active duty pursuant to this order in emergency status.



**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twelfth day of July in the year two thousand sixteen.

  
SCOTT WALKER  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State





