

The Connector



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Message from WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb

Governor Scott Walker is calling his 2015-17 state budget plan a Blueprint for Prosperity because it continues investments aimed at promoting economic growth and enhancing public safety. Once again, investments in transportation infrastructure and services are among his top budget priorities. Wisconsin residents and businesses - especially agriculture and manufacturing - rely on a quality transportation network to efficiently move workers, materials and finished products. Overall, the Governor's Blueprint for Prosperity holds the line on taxes and fees while continuing vital investments in our transportation network. This issue of the WisDOT Connector provides an overview of key transportation-related measures included in the state budget proposal. Since we all have a stake in our transportation future, I encourage everyone to stay engaged as the Wisconsin Legislature takes further action on the proposed budget over the upcoming months.

Key transportation budget provisions

The Governor's budget plan includes \$6.5 billion to build and maintain Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure over the next two years. Transportation bonding is increased to \$1.3 billion over the 2015-17 biennium, but overall proposed state bonding is at its lowest level compared to any of the Governor's prior budgets. Other transportation highlights:

- Total funding for State Highway Rehabilitation is over \$1.6 billion. This includes vital activities such as repaving that prevents deterioration and more costly future repairs.
- Investments in larger highway and bridge projects that bring benefits to the entire state include:
 - \$836 million (a \$108 million increase) to keep major highway projects on schedule

- \$623 million to keep the Zoo Interchange Project on schedule for completion in 2018
- \$20 million for the St. Croix River Crossing Project
- \$16.8 million to complete rehabilitation of the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee
- Fully fund the 4 percent increase for General Transportation Aids and Transit Operating Aids to local governments that was enacted in the 2013-15 budget.
- Creation of new Tier C shared-ride taxi systems in four state regions - the Scenic Mississippi Region, between Lac du Flambeau and Minocqua, between Forest, Oneida and Vilas counties and in Walworth County.
- Increase funding for transportation services for senior citizens and disabled residents by \$438,000.
- A \$2 million annual increase for Transportation Economic Assistance grants to partner with local communities and businesses on efforts that create or retain jobs.
- \$43 million in general obligation bonds for the Freight Rail Preservation Program to acquire and improve abandoned rail lines to support freight needs.
- \$330,000 increase to fully fund the operation and maintenance of state-owned lift bridges.
- \$1.7 million to redesign driver licenses and ID cards with enhanced security features.
- Waive the fee for those applying for a Commercial Driver License who already hold a military-issued CDL.
- \$4.9 million for increased State Patrol overtime, an annual recruit class and to replace outdated radio equipment.

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance will take a detailed look and hold public hearings on the two-year state budget plan in the near future. Once the Committee has completed its review and suggested changes, the state Assembly and Senate will each have an opportunity to debate and vote on the budget bill before it goes to Governor Walker for final action.

Two new performance reports assess the department's progress

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) quarterly online [MAPSS Performance Improvement Report](#) is now available on the [MAPSS homepage](#).

The latest [MAPSS Scorecard](#) shows performance goals were met on 5 of the 19 measures updated over the past quarter. This includes:

- Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) customer service measures showed great improvement with 84 percent of DMV service center customers served within 20

minutes, nearly 74 percent of DMV phone calls answered within two minutes and progress made on driver license road test scheduling.

- Safety numbers continued to trend in a favorable direction or hold steady. Wisconsin ended 2014 with the lowest number of traffic fatalities in 70 years.
 - The department exceeded established goals for delivering projects on-budget.



Several performance measures are trending in an unfavorable direction. This includes hours of vehicle delay on the Interstate system and travel time reliability. Over 75 percent of the delays affected drivers on four corridors: I-90/94 from Madison to Eau Claire; I-94 from the Badger to Marquette interchange; I-94 from the Marquette interchange to Illinois; and I-43 from the Marquette interchange to Green Bay. Three significant incidents that lasted over seven hours prevented the incident response measure from reaching its goal to clear full closures on the Interstate within an average time of four hours.

The MAPSS Scorecard also includes a new measure on program effectiveness that will be used to evaluate how well the projects identified in highway programs align with the improvements suggested by asset management models. The overall goal of this measure is to ensure the right projects are being done at the right time and place.

In addition to the MAPSS Scorecard, the department also released a new report titled, [Better, Faster, Lower Cost: A Performance Report of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation](#). This online report summarizes a variety of activities underway to provide high quality transportation programs and services and to advance techniques and innovations that allow things to be done faster and at a lower cost.



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's MAPSS Performance Improvement Program reviews performance measures for five key goal areas that guide us in achieving our mission - mobility, accountability, preservation, safety and service. To check out the latest online reports, simply click on the MAPSS logo.

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