

Message from WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb

The recently-approved 2015-17 state budget invests \$6.82 billion in Wisconsin's multi-modal transportation system over the next two years. It means the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will continue to make prudent investments in state highways and bridges, airport, railroad, harbor and public transit systems along with supporting the local transportation system. These investments will help ensure the safe and efficient movement of manufacturing and agricultural products to market, support the state's tourism industry and accommodate the mobility of a wide variety of travelers.

Transportation bonding, a key focus of legislative debate, totals \$910.7 million over the next two years, down from \$991.4 million in bonding in the 2013-15 state budget. There are no changes to state motor fuel taxes or transportation user fees. The budget provides \$1 million for WisDOT to further study methods of improving the solvency of the state's Transportation Fund. The long-term solvency of transportation funding at both the state and federal levels remains a significant challenge that requires our continued attention.

WisDOT remains committed to efficiency, transparency and getting the most from current resources. Our MAPSS Performance Improvement Program, Lean government initiatives and implementation of innovative strategies will continue to play a vital role in helping us complete transportation projects faster and at a lower cost.

This edition of the WisDOT Connector provides a broad overview of the recently-enacted state transportation budget.

Budget Review: Highway Program

Over the next two years, WisDOT will move forward with hundreds of highway and bridge improvement projects around the state. The recently-enacted state transportation budget includes:

- \$1.5 billion for state highway rehabilitation. Maintaining and extending the life of existing transportation facilities remains WisDOT's top focus
- \$486 million for major highway development
- \$414.6 million to complete Phase II core work on the Zoo Interchange project in Milwaukee
- \$20 million to finish the St. Croix Bridge in northwest Wisconsin, and \$16.8 million to finish work on the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee

Reductions in the State Highway Rehabilitation and Major Highway programs will result in some project delays. The department's approach to scheduling projects will emphasize several factors:

- Prioritizing projects that address critical safety issues
- Avoiding disruption to Major Highway Projects already in late stages of project construction
- Preserving the higher-functioning backbone state highway system - the approximately 1,600 miles of Interstates, freeways and expressways that connect major economic areas of the state
- Selecting treatments that add the most additional life to the highway and bridge network - doing the appropriate work at the optimal time

The budget provides WisDOT up to \$350 million in bonding authority over the next two years that is contingent on approval from the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee. Those funds, if approved, could be used to increase funding in state highway rehabilitation and major highway development.

Budget Review: Other Investments

Other multi-modal budget highlights:

- Recognizing the needs of the local transportation system, the budget maintains the four percent increase in General Transportation Aids and four percent increase in Transit Aids as provided in the 2013-15 budget
- \$35 million over the biennium for the Freight Rail Preservation Program to improve freight rail service through the acquisition and rehabilitation of state-owned rail lines
- \$13.2 million for the Harbor Assistance Program to repair and improve harbor facilities
- Funding for the operation and maintenance of the reconstructed passenger concourse at the Milwaukee Intermodal Station. Project completion is expected by the end of this year

Budget Review: WisDOT Operations

- Beyond infrastructure investments, the budget will allow WisDOT to enhance DMV customer service, improve the security of DMV products and further reduce wait times at customer service centers. This includes the redesign of driver licenses and ID cards that is already underway. The new products will contain state-of-the-art security features to help prevent fraud and identify theft. The new cards will be available starting this fall.
- The budget includes a number of initiatives to enhance State Patrol activities including replacement of obsolete in-vehicle radios with modern equipment and funding for annual State Patrol recruit classes to maintain adequate staffing in trooper and inspector positions. The process for the 2016 recruit class is already underway.

Governor's Small Business Summit

WisDOT is helping to promote the 5th Annual Governor's Small Business Summit, set for Eau Claire on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. Join Governor Scott Walker, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, and leaders from across the public and private sectors for an engaging, energizing day focused on job creation for Wisconsin's small and medium businesses. Registration is only \$50, including lunch. Seats are limited and filling up fast so head to www.wheda.com/SmallBizSummit today to register.



eMV Public enhances DMV service

WisDOT's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has added the convenience of online payment to the popular eMV Public, an online title and registration system that can be used when buying an auto, light truck, motorcycle or SUV from a private seller. eMV Public links directly from the wisconsindmv.gov website. Available 24/7, eMV Public now offers online payment options, including credit or debit card and Automatic Clearing House (ACH) transfers, to complete the process immediately. The title record and license plate information are updated instantly and a temporary license plate can be printed directly from home.

Who's who at WisDOT

Denise Solie serves as the administrator of the Division of Business Management (DBM). DBM is dedicated to achieving the WisDOT mission by ensuring reliable and cost-effective business support services in the areas of facilities, risk, safety, purchasing, fleet, fiscal services, labor relations, employee assistance, payroll, training, personnel management, information systems analysis and development, and information technology management and technical support. Denise Solie has served as DBM administrator since January 2011. You can reach Denise at (608) 266-2090 or denise.solie@dot.wi.gov.



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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