



Transportation Finance Issues

How much money goes toward local aids?

Local communities receive state transportation funds

Wisconsin ranks high nationally when it comes to returning state-generated highway user revenues back to local governments.

More than 28 percent of the state transportation budget is dedicated to local transportation aids and assistance.

Transportation aids to local communities include funds for local road construction and maintenance, bridge improvements, capital assistance for airports, rail and harbor facilities, flood damage, expressway policing and transit operating assistance.

GTA is the largest category of local aids

General transportation aids (GTA) is distributed to every town, village, city and county in the state to help offset the cost of maintaining and improving the local road and street system. It is the largest category of local aid. In 2015-17, GTA funding totals 839.3 million.

There are two GTA appropriations – one for counties and another for municipalities.

GTA funds are allocated according to a complex formula that is based on a six-year spending average or a statutorily set rate-per-mile.

Transit aid is among the highest in the country

Public transit is quite varied in Wisconsin, encompassing large urban systems, van pools, shared-ride taxi service, specialized transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities and commuter bus and rail service. Local government and private carriers operate these systems, with the state as a key partner.

The state has funded a share of local transit operating costs since 1974. Today, state aid is a significant source of funding for Wisconsin's 81 public transit systems.

There are four separate tiers of transit funding in Wisconsin based on population:

- Milwaukee
- Madison
- Urbanized areas
- Small urban and rural systems

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