General Transportation Aids (GTA)

Statutory Authority: § 86.30 **Admin. Rule: N/A**

Objective: To provide local governments with a partial reimbursement of funds to offset the cost of county and municipal road construction, maintenance, traffic, and police costs. A local unit of government's payment is based on either a share of eligible transportation related expenditures, or a per mile payment. The mix of fund sources supporting local roads reflects the mix of benefits they provide to both highway users and property owners.

Eligibility: General Transportation Aids (GTA) funds are distributed to all Wisconsin counties, cities, villages, and towns. Payments are divided among all local governments based on either a percentage of eligible highway-related expenditures or a per-mile payment, whichever results in a higher payment. It covers a portion of the cost of such things as constructing roads, filling potholes, plowing snow, grading shoulders, marking pavement, and repairing curbs and gutters.

Description: The GTA program is the second largest line item in WisDOT's budget. Under this program, 1,925 local governments (all counties, cities, villages, and towns) receive quarterly payments based on local road mileage and aidable local costs. Aidable local costs generally include the local share of all road and street construction and maintenance costs within roadway rights of way. Expenditures on county forest roads are aided under another, separate program.

- Within a given annual funding level, the major determinants of the amount of aid a local government will receive are the road mileage under its jurisdiction (used to calculate "rate-per-mile" (RPM) payments) and the amount of its own resources it has spent on that mileage over an average of six years (used in determining "share of costs" (SOC) payments).

- The RPM rate has been $2,202 since CY 2015.

- The SOC percentage is determined on a yearly basis during the calculation process; the total costs reported and the balance of remaining funding within the appropriation are the two primary factors.

- There are two appropriations, one for counties and one for municipalities.

- Municipalities cannot receive more than 85% of their three-year costs average regardless of whether they are RPM or SOC eligible.

- Minimum and maximum “cushions” in the formula ensure:
    - Local governments can receive increases from their previous year's payments up to 15%; and
    - For counties and municipalities, payment reductions are limited to 10% of the previous year’s payment

Each spring, local governments file a Municipal Financial Report with the Department of Revenue. WisDOT uses portions of that data to determine a local government's costs and calculate the aid awards. Since the Municipal Financial Reports are based on calendar year data, there is a lag in its effect on transportation aid payments, e.g., costs incurred during 2015 were submitted in 2016 and first used in the calculation of 2017 aid amounts.

CY2016 Distribution Levels:	Counties:	$98,400,200
	Municipalities:	$321,260,500
	Total State:	**$419,660,700**
FY2016 SEG Appropriation Levels:	Counties:	$98,400,200
	Municipalities:	$321,260,500
	Total State:	**$419,660,700**
CY2017 Distribution Levels:	Counties:	$98,400,200
	Municipalities:	$321,260,500
	Total State:	**$419,660,700**
FY2017 SEG Appropriation Levels:	Counties:	$98,400,200
	Municipalities:	$321,260,500
	Total State:	**$419,660,700**

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