

## An Overview

The State Legislature established the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission as part of the 2011-13 budget to examine issues related to the future of transportation finance in Wisconsin, including:

- highway maintenance, rehabilitation and expansion projects;
  - local aid and assistance programs, including general transportation aids;
  - transportation fund revenue projections;
  - transportation fund debt service;
  - options to achieve balance between revenues, expenditures and debt service; and
  - impact of highway project planning on abutting property.
- How can the state share its transportation revenues with local governments cost-effectively?
  - How should the state's delivery of transportation services be modified to address changing demographics?
  - What level of transportation services are Wisconsin's citizens willing to support?
  - While the motor fuel excise tax continues to be the primary funding source for transportation, it will likely not grow commensurate with system needs. Does the state need a new approach to raising revenues?
  - Does the state's current multimodal balance support the needs of businesses and citizens?

These areas were identified by the Legislature to guide the Commission's work. To date, the Commission has reviewed Wisconsin's current transportation programs and services with a focus on how the state provides or contributes to transportation services at the state and local levels. The Commission has developed a better understanding of the current state, federal and local revenues that support transportation services in Wisconsin. The Commission's report to the Legislature, due no later than March 1, 2013, will encompass new approaches for the next decade.

The Commission is in the process of identifying transportation questions/challenges, such as:

- How can the state ensure that adequate funds to preserve and maintain the current highway network are available while also making improvements that support the mobility needs of the state's population and economic growth?

### Commission Membership

The Commission has 10 voting members. WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb is a non-voting member and serves as chair.

John Antaramian	Martin Hanson
Tom Carlsen	William Hanson
Dave Cieslewicz	Robb Kahl
Robert Cook	Craig Thompson
Barbara Fleisner	Tom Vandenberg

### Public Listening Sessions

The Commission will hold four public listening sessions: Madison (January 12); Milwaukee (March 22); Appleton (April 26) and Eau Claire (May 31). Prior to each session, the Commission will hold its regular meeting in that community. People unable to attend a listening session are encouraged to send comments to the Commission via e-mail at: [dottfpccommission@dot.wi.gov](mailto:dottfpccommission@dot.wi.gov).

To learn more about the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission please visit [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/about/tfp/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/about/tfp/index.htm).



## At A Glance

Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure includes a network of roads and bridges, airports, water ports, transit systems and rail lines linking the state with markets throughout the world. Transportation touches the lives of nearly everyone every day. Whether traveling to work, school, or to a favorite vacation spot, Wisconsin's transportation network provides the means to get there.

### Travel by the Numbers – Highways and Roads

- 11,800 miles of state and Interstate highways
- 103,000 miles of county highways, town roads and municipal streets
- 13,700 local and state bridges
- 59 billion vehicle miles of travel (VMT) on Wisconsin roads each year
- Over four million licensed drivers and nearly 5.5 million registered vehicles

### Transit Systems

- 81 public bus and shared-ride taxi systems

### Airports

- 131 public use airports
- About 6,000 active registered aircraft
- About 6.6 million people boarding commercial flights in Wisconsin each year
- About 119 million pounds of cargo shipped by air each year

### Railroads

- Approximately 3,600 miles of track, of which nearly 600 miles are state-owned

- 180 million tons of cargo shipped on freight railroads each year
- Two Amtrak passenger train routes; the *Hiawatha Service* between Milwaukee and Chicago carries around 800,000 passengers each year

### Harbors

- 23 commercial ports handle over 40 million tons of cargo each year

### Bicycle and Pedestrian

- 11 percent of all Wisconsin trips are made by transit, walking or bicycling

### Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

WisDOT supports all forms of transportation. The department is responsible for planning, building and maintaining Wisconsin's network of state highways, including the Interstate highway system. The department shares the costs of building and operating local transportation systems – from highways to public transit and other modes. WisDOT plans, promotes and financially supports statewide air, rail and water transportation, as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The department has three executive offices and five divisions, including:

- Division of Business Management
- Division of Motor Vehicles
- Division of State Patrol
- Division of Transportation Investment Management
- Division of Transportation System Development

General information about the department is available at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/>.