

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES ELEMENT

The transportation system of Waukesha County benefits all County and Town of Eagle residents by providing for the movement of goods and people into, out of, through, and within the Town. An efficient, durable, cost-effective transportation system is essential to the sound social, community, and economic development of the Town, County and of the Region. The term transportation system describes several different aspects including:

- Transportation options used to move people and products
- Levels of jurisdictional authority
- Facilities that a user might access to begin, change, or end a trip.

When people hear the term transportation system, they often think only of roads. While roads account for the majority of the transportation system, they are not the only component. A transportation system includes: roads, transit services, rail services, bicycle lanes, paths, trails, airports, pedestrian ways, ports, and harbors. The Eagle Advisory Committee has identified a number of strengths, weaknesses and concerns about the current status of transportation facilities which are detailed within Chapter 8. In summary, the Town road system is in good condition and has a strong road maintenance plan, but there is a lack of a safe pedestrian and bicycle system and a lack of transportation opportunities for seniors, disabled persons, and other non-drivers.

Town of Eagle Street Inventory

As mentioned above the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) maintains a detailed database of Township street information in the "Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads" (WISLR). The information in the database is provided by the Township, and is intended to assist in the reporting of roadway pavement conditions. The Town of Eagle has 40.98 miles of public highways and streets, and an additional 2.51 miles of mill tax roads. The most heavily traveled arterial streets and highways in the Town are State Highway 67, State Highway 59, and County Trunk Highway NN.

Interregional Public Transportation

No interregional public transportation is provided in the Town. Most residents of the Town of Eagle are within 45 miles of a Waukesha or Milwaukee airport. The Town of Eagle is also served, for private and recreational aviation, by nearby Palmyra and East Troy municipal airports. Badger Coaches, Greyhound, Coach USA, and Lamers Bus Lines provide intercity bus service within the Region. Intercity passenger rail service in the Region is provided by Amtrak with stops at the downtown Milwaukee Amtrak depot, Mitchell International Airport, and Sturtevant, but provides no stops in Waukesha County at this time.

Specialized Transportation

Rideline is a program subsidized by the Waukesha County Department of Senior Services. It provides lift-equipped vans for disabled and older persons. Non-driving Waukesha County residents age 65 and older and individuals under age 65 who use a cane, walker, crutches, wheelchair or scooter, or are legally blind are eligible for this program. Rideline "Seniors on the Go" does provide transportation between communities for an additional fee per ride for seniors and an unsubsidized rate for all others within the Town of Eagle.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FACILITIES

Pedestrian Facilities

A comprehensive inventory of pedestrian facilities, such as sidewalks, has not been completed for communities in Waukesha County.

Bikeways

The bicycle and pedestrian facilities element in the 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin is intended to promote safe accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian travel, and encourage bicycle and pedestrian travel as an alternative to personal vehicle travel. The regional plan recommends that as the surface arterial street system of about 3,300 miles in the Region is resurfaced and reconstructed, the provision of accommodation for bicycle travel should be implemented, if feasible, through bicycle lanes, widened outside travel lanes, widened and paved shoulders, or separate bicycle paths. This recommendation would result in an additional 161 miles of off-street bicycle mileage on state, county, and local roads within Waukesha County.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation published a map of bicycling conditions for Waukesha County. This map shows bicycle touring trails, urban escape routes, best roads for biking, and mountain bike trails.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Rail Freight Services

The Wisconsin and Southern Railroad travels through the Town, and has expressed a willingness to provide future railroad spurs to service the Town of Eagle. It serves Waukesha, Genesee Depot, North Prairie, and Eagle in Waukesha County. The mission of WSOR is to provide rail freight service to rural communities in southern Wisconsin.

Airports

Waukesha County is served by two public-use airports; Waukesha County-Crites Field, and Capitol Airport. Waukesha County-Crites Field located in Waukesha provides chartered air service, airplane rentals, and air freight services. Capitol Airport, along with nearby Palmyra Airport, and East Troy Airport, provides airline facilities for general aviation aircraft. Commercial airline service is provided by General Mitchell International Airport, located in Milwaukee County.

STATE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

There are programs to provide state and federal funds to assist local governments, and are more thoroughly explained in the Waukesha County Comprehensive Development Plan and more detailed in the text of Chapter 8. One that directly affects the Town is the Rustic Roads Program. It was created in 1973 by the State Legislature to preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled back roads for the enjoyment of motorists, hikers and bicyclists. The Town of Eagle has one Rustic Road that includes portions of Waterville Road and Piper Road, from US Highway 18 to Wisconsin State Trunk Highway 59, in the Town of Eagle. It is a 7 mile paved road that provides scenic views of the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and access to the Ice Age Trail.

TOWN OF EAGLE TRANSPORTATION OBJECTIVE

A multi-modal transportation system which, establishes appropriate types and choices of transportation modes, that through its location, capacity, and design, will effectively serve the existing Town and County land use pattern and promote the implementation of the regional land use plan and the County comprehensive development plan, meeting and managing the anticipated travel demand generated by the existing and proposed land uses.

IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Town of Eagle should support Waukesha County's work with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to conduct a major review and reevaluation of the jurisdictional transfer recommendations in the year 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan.
2. The Town of Eagle should participate in any of Waukesha County's work to refine the proposed system of off street bicycle paths and surface arterial streets and highway system accommodation of bicycles contained in the 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan. In addition, the Town should consider integrating bikeway accommodations into planning for upgrades and modifications to the Town roadway system consistent with the refined County Plan, and facilitate communication with local municipalities to address bikeway linkages and connectivity.
3. The Town should implement the transportation system development planning objectives, principles, and standards contained in Chapter 2 of the Waukesha County Comprehensive Development Plan.
4. The Town should support County evaluation of dedicated funding sources for county wide shared taxi service to meet the needs of a growing elderly population in all 37 municipalities.
5. As a consequence of increasing rail freight traffic, the Town should support County establishment of additional rail quiet zones and their investment in railroad grade separations as a safety priority at county trunk highway crossings.
6. The Town should continue to evaluate for implementation any public transit recommendations contained in the 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin that are possible at the local level.
7. The Town should continue to update the Official Transportation Map using the PAZER Program.
8. The Town should continue to work to upgrade the Town's street system with the necessary improvements.
9. The Town should look for possible State and Federal funding sources or grants for road improvements.

IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin is multi-modal in nature, dealing with public transit, bicycle and pedestrian, travel demand management, transportation systems management, and arterial streets and highways. The plan is designed to serve, and be consistent with the Year 2035 Regional Land Use Plan. (Full Implementation detail is available in Chapter 8.)