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For Immediate Release
Contact Information Below

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2021-2023 State Budget Invests Transportation Funds to Local Communities, Provides Flexibility with Dollars

Wisconsin counties, cities, towns and villages will benefit from transportation investments into local roads, bridges and other infrastructure, as announced this week as a part of Governor Evers 2021-2023 State Biennial Budget.

The state budget proposal includes approximately a \$19 million increase in the State Highway Rehabilitation program, a 2% increase in general transportation aids in both 2022 and 2023, and a reintroduction of \$75 million for the Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS) program. County governments have praised MLS for its flexibility and lack of red tape, making it possible for more communities to participate.

“The state moves goods, services and our economy forward based upon our local transportation system,” said Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Executive Director Mark D. O’Connell. “By including increases in aid for counties and municipalities, while holding other programs to current spending levels and empowering local governments, Governor Evers has recognized the importance of local infrastructure to the state’s transportation system.”

Cities with transit systems will also benefit from a 2.5% boost in state support for those programs in both 2022 and 2023, as well as provisions that make it easier for transit systems to serve more people. And the budget contains increased funding to fix Wisconsin’s harbors.

“We have all faced great challenges over the past year, but the need to fix our transportation system remains as important as ever,” said League of Wisconsin Municipalities Executive Director Jerry Deschane. “The priorities are in the right place with this budget, which invests in local road and bridge improvement projects, as well as other mobility options.”

“With the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the importance of moving products and the role of first mile connections, this additional transportation funding for local roads is especially welcome,” said Wisconsin Towns Association Executive Director Mike Koles, who also had praise for the MLS program. “Towns, villages, cities and other local governments have a lot of control of MLS. We can apply for a wide range of projects, and a committee of municipal officials chooses which projects to fund. We get to use our boots on the ground knowledge and set priorities that best meet our local needs.”

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Representatives from the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the Wisconsin Towns Association will continue to work with the Governor and Legislature as the 2021-2023 State Budget makes its way through the legislative process.

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For additional comments or questions, please contact:

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