



WISCONSIN TOWNS
ASSOCIATION

Empowering Town Officials

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For Immediate Release
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The Wisconsin Towns Association applauds Governor Evers' choice of Craig Thompson as Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

"Town roads encompass almost 62,000 miles and 54% of Wisconsin's road infrastructure. They provide the "first" and "last" mile connection to Wisconsin's economy. Despite their critical link to economic success, almost 75% of town roads are in need of major maintenance or reconstruction. Nobody understands the connection between the first and last mile and everything in between better than Craig Thompson", stated Lee Engelbrecht, WTA President.

Based on current reconstruction and maintenance schedules, the average town road will be reconstructed every 371 years and receive a seal coat every three decades instead of the recommended five to seven years.

Gary Jakes, Town of Lake Tomahawk Chairman, commented: "We are continually faced with additional pressure on town roads and bridges because effective freight corridors are being closed off due to more weight limits on bridges. We look forward to having Secretary Thompson on the team to help make certain the wood products industry has the infrastructure that is necessary to efficiently move their raw materials".

"Agriculture is the primary economic driver in the Town of York", said Town Supervisor and Owner of Four Star Dairy, Roger Erickson. "In order for agriculture to succeed, we must have department policies in place that support development of 21st century infrastructure in towns. We are confident that Secretary Thompson will move us in this direction".

Mike Koles, WTA Executive Director, added: "The Association has been and will continue to lobby for a long term, sustainable, and equitable approach to transportation investment in Wisconsin. We have worked with Craig for many years and are completely confident that he is the perfect choice to provide leadership internally within WisDOT and throughout all of state government to accomplish this goal."

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