



WISCONSIN TOWNS
ASSOCIATION

Empowering Town Officials

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For Immediate Release
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Wisconsin Towns Association Statement on Multimodal Local Supplement Awards

Today, it was announced that 84 towns will receive \$28.7M in Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS) grant awards. This funding will be used to provide a shot in the arm to the rural agriculture, wood products and tourism economies, as well as, to more safely move the workforce from home to work.

"The MLS grants will provide for critical infrastructure projects that will help people and products move more efficiently," said Mike Koles, executive director of the Wisconsin Towns Association. "The communities that have been awarded these grants are rightfully pleased; however, we can't lose sight of the fact the funds allocated today cover only a fraction of the transportation needs in our communities."

Over 1,000 eligible grant applications were submitted by towns with needs greater than \$567 million.

"Town roads are often the first and the last mile in the distribution chain for agricultural, forestry, and manufacturing goods in Wisconsin," said Koles. "Most tourists in Wisconsin, whether they come from out of state or out of town, will also travel town roads during their trips. The MLS program is a start, but because of decades of disinvestment, it is not nearly enough. Because such a small portion of the needs were funded, farmers, loggers, manufacturers, citizens and tourists will be forced to continue to engage in wasteful travel patterns."

We thank the Legislature, Secretary Thompson, and Governor Evers for their out of the box thinking and the simple application process. We look forward to working with them in the next budget to continue to innovatively eliminate the economic drag caused by inadequate infrastructure.

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