

Coulee Country Corridor – La Crosse to Tomah

Corridor Overview

This 40-mile corridor is part of an Interstate passenger and freight corridor linking La Crosse and locations west with Madison, Milwaukee, the Fox Valley, Chicago and locations further south and east. The corridor also provides an important economic link to western Wisconsin and is a key route to Fort McCoy. It includes the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Highway (I-90 from the Illinois state line to the Minnesota state line). The corridor serves the urban and urbanized areas of La Crosse, Sparta and Tomah. This corridor also serves the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Current Corridor Characteristics

- Airports:
 - › Air carrier (passenger) airport: La Crosse Municipal
 - › Transport/corporate airport: Sparta-Fort McCoy
 - › General utility airport: Bloyer Field (Tomah)
- Highways:
 - › Primary state highways: I-90, WIS 16, WIS 21
 - › Corridors 2030 Backbone Route: I-90
 - › NHS intermodal terminals with local road connections: Port of La Crosse
- Public Transit:
 - › Bus systems: La Crosse
 - › Shared-ride taxi: Onalaska
 - › Specialized transit: Available in all counties; level of service depends on location
- Fixed Guideway Transit: None along this corridor
- Rail Freight: Freight rail service exists
- Intercity Passenger Rail: Amtrak *Empire Builder* service between Chicago, IL and Seattle, WA/Portland, OR, with stops in Tomah and La Crosse
- Intercity Bus:
 - › Connections in La Crosse to intercity bus services to Madison and Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
 - › Connections in Tomah to intercity bus services to Chicago, IL and Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
- Ports and Harbors: La Crosse
- Ferry: None along this corridor
- Bicycle/Pedestrian:
 - › Major trails: Great River State Trail, La Crosse River State Trail, Elroy – Sparta Trail
 - › Accommodations, linkages and accessibility along and across some facilities

Future Corridor Vision

- Airports: Continued service, increased direct air service and infrastructure projects to support business airplane-capable airports
- Highways: Maximized preservation and maintenance of infrastructure and continued user efficiency and mobility, including improved traffic movement, along I-90, WIS 16, and WIS 21 by implementing:
 - › *State Access Management Plan* vision
 - Tier 1; I-90
 - Tier 2A; WIS 16 (WIS 157 to County Rd M (La Crosse Co))
 - Tier 2B; WIS 16 [County Rd C (La Crosse Co to Sparta municipal limit) and WIS 21 (Sparta municipal limit to I-94)]
 - › Candidate passing lane corridors (WIS 21)
 - › Enumerated Major project for construction (La Crosse)
- Public Transit: Increased regional coordination and continued service
- Fixed Guideway Transit: None along this corridor
- Rail Freight: Continued freight rail service and corridor preservation
- Intercity Passenger Rail:
 - › Continued Amtrak *Empire Builder* service between Chicago, IL and Seattle, WA/Portland, OR, with stops in Tomah and La Crosse
 - › New service:
 - New Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN – Madison – Milwaukee – Chicago, IL intercity passenger rail service
 - All new intercity passenger rail services will operate within existing corridors
- Intercity Bus:
 - › Continued existing service
 - › New service:
 - Phase 2: Between La Crosse and Madison via I-90, with stops in Tomah and Sparta; and between Eau Claire and Tomah passenger rail station-
 - Phase 3: Between La Crosse and Wausau, with stops in Sparta and Tomah
- Ports and Harbors: Continued service, preservation, maintenance and infrastructure improvements (La Crosse)
- Ferry: None along this corridor
- Bicycle/Pedestrian: Continued and enhanced accommodations, linkages and accessibility along and across facilities



	Year 2007	Year 2030
County populations		
La Crosse	111,791	125,652
Monroe	43,838	50,322
Population age 65 and older	19,130	37,627
Enplanements		
La Crosse Municipal Airport	119,897	228,500
Intercity passenger rail ridership		
La Crosse station	28,009	70,000
Tomah station	9,613	24,000
Average annual daily traffic along		
I-90	15,900 – 34,500	22,600 – 53,000
WIS 16	3,700 – 15,500	5,000 – 19,600
WIS 21	4,800 – 4,900	5,800 – 6,400
Truck volume along		
I-90	Medium	Medium
WIS 16	Low	Low
WIS 21	Low	Low

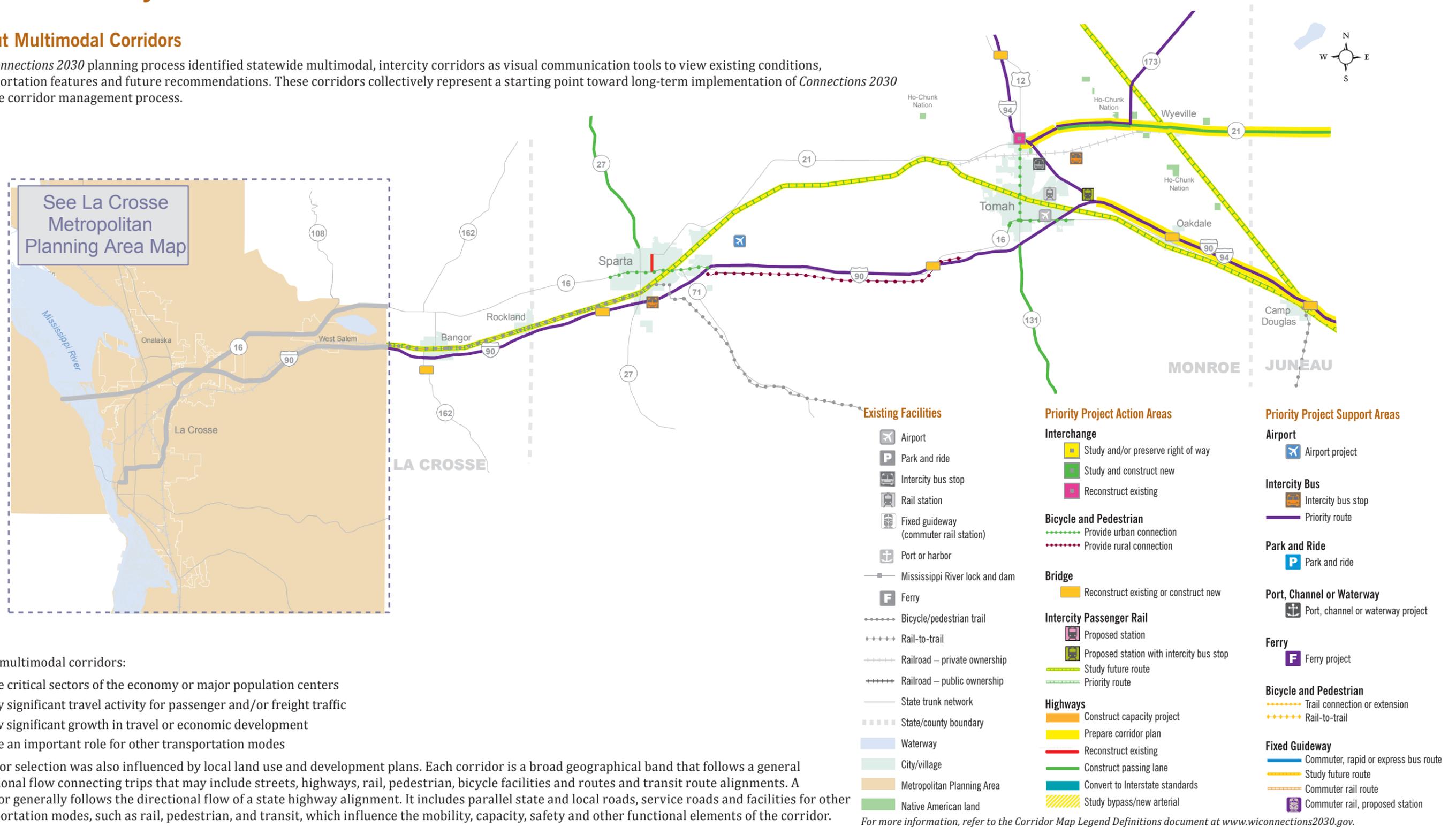
Refer to the “Corridor Map - Data Definitions and Sources” for more information.



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About Multimodal Corridors

The *Connections 2030* planning process identified statewide multimodal, intercity corridors as visual communication tools to view existing conditions, transportation features and future recommendations. These corridors collectively represent a starting point toward long-term implementation of *Connections 2030* and the corridor management process.



These multimodal corridors:

- Serve critical sectors of the economy or major population centers
- Carry significant travel activity for passenger and/or freight traffic
- Show significant growth in travel or economic development
- Serve an important role for other transportation modes

Corridor selection was also influenced by local land use and development plans. Each corridor is a broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting trips that may include streets, highways, rail, pedestrian, bicycle facilities and routes and transit route alignments. A corridor generally follows the directional flow of a state highway alignment. It includes parallel state and local roads, service roads and facilities for other transportation modes, such as rail, pedestrian, and transit, which influence the mobility, capacity, safety and other functional elements of the corridor.



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Current and Proposed Future Activities

These activities may not occur in the time frame identified due to budget constraints, changing conditions or shifting priorities. Refer to the “Important Notes about What is Depicted” for more information or contact the WisDOT Region Office.

Short-Term (2008 – 2013)

I-94	Replace bridges at County Rd PP (Monroe Co) and County Rd C (Juneau Co)
WIS 21	Reconstruct from WIS 16 to Montgomery St and replace bridge deck (Sparta)

Mid-Term (2014 – 2019)

WIS 21	Prepare corridor plan from I-94 (Tomah) to Rivermoor Rd (Winnebago Co)
Airports	Support runway extension at the Sparta-Fort McCoy airport
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide urban accommodations along WIS 16 through Tomah and Sparta, and along US 12 through Tomah
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide rural accommodations along WIS 16 from Sparta to County Rd M (Monroe Co)
Intercity Bus	Support new intercity bus service between La Crosse and Madison via I-90/94 with stops in Sparta, Tomah, Mauston, and Wisconsin Dells
Intercity/Feeder Bus	Support new intercity/feeder bus from Eau Claire to the Tomah passenger rail station with a stop in Black River Falls
Intercity Passenger Rail	Implement intercity passenger rail service between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Chicago, IL via Eau Claire with proposed stops in Hudson, Menomonie, Eau Claire, Wisconsin Dells, Portage, Madison, Watertown, Oconomowoc, Brookfield, Milwaukee, General Mitchell International Airport and Sturtevant and/or via La Crosse with proposed stops in La Crosse, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Portage, Madison, Watertown, Oconomowoc, Brookfield, Milwaukee, General Mitchell International Airport and Sturtevant. Implementation will be based on results of environmental study

Important Notes about What is Depicted

The map shows currently programmed and proposed future activities (as of December 31, 2007) that have significant impacts on the corridor. Not all projects or initiatives are mapped, and additional analyses, including an environmental document, will be conducted before any of the projects or activities are completed. These analyses may include studying alternatives (including a no build/no change alternative) with public involvement opportunities as appropriate. Resources and shifting priorities may impact WisDOT’s implementation of any proposed activity within the time frames identified. WisDOT will remain flexible in the implementation of *Connections 2030* recommendations. The map and table activities on the following page reflect actions identified in:

- *Connections 2030* policies
- WisDOT’s Six-Year Highway Improvement Program (2008 - 2013)
- Other WisDOT program data
- Other WisDOT plans and studies
- Metropolitan planning organizations’ (MPOs), regional planning commissions’ (RPCs) and tribal long-range transportation plans

For information on funding and implementation priorities, see those *Connections 2030* chapters. For more information on transportation projects, contact the WisDOT Region Office (see *Connections 2030* or www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/ for a map of region offices). MPO, RPC and tribal long-range transportation plans offer recommendations on all transportation modes within their boundaries.

Long-Term (2020 – 2030)

I-90	Replace bridge over the Little La Crosse River and at I-90 and WIS 16 if supported by environmental document
I-94	Prepare corridor plan from US 12 to I-90/94 split (Tomah)
I-94	Replace bridge at US 12 north of Tomah if supported by environmental document
I-94	Reconstruct existing interchange at US 12 and I-94 if supported by environmental document
WIS 162	Replace bridge over Dutch Creek if supported by environmental document
Intercity Bus	Support new intercity bus service between La Crosse and Wausau with stops in Sparta, Tomah, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point and Mosinee

Entire Planning Period

WIS 21	Construct candidate passing lanes from Ensign Rd (east of Tomah) to the west boundary of Coloma if supported by environmental document
WIS 27	Construct candidate passing lanes from County Rd BC (Monroe Co) to W 7th St (south of Black River Falls) if supported by environmental document
WIS 131	Construct candidate passing lanes from WIS 71 to I-90 if supported by environmental document
Airports	Support continued preservation, maintenance and infrastructure projects at <i>State Airport System Plan</i> airports
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Support accommodations and linkages to create a connected network that provides accessibility along and across facilities
Intercity Bus	Support continued intercity bus service between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Chicago, IL with stops in Eau Claire, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Madison and Beloit; and between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Chicago, IL with stops in Eau Claire, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Madison and Milwaukee
Intercity Passenger Rail	Study the potential for serving West Central, North Central, Central and South Central Wisconsin and implement the results of the studies
Intercity Passenger Rail	Support continued Amtrak <i>Empire Builder</i> service between Seattle, WA/Portland, OR and Chicago, IL with stops in La Crosse, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Portage, Columbus and Milwaukee
Intercity Passenger Rail	Work with the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads to preserve intercity passenger rail corridors by discouraging new at-grade crossings of the corridors
Local Roads	Support continued preservation, maintenance and infrastructure projects
Public Transit	Work with counties and transit service providers to coordinate and expand rural transit service
Rail Freight	Support the preservation of existing freight services and corridors
Specialized Transit	Support continued service and encourage improved service coordination
State Highways	Construct grade separations at rail crossings if supported by environmental document
State Highways	Preserve and maintain infrastructure
State Highways	Improve traffic movement with traffic operations infrastructure strategies



Corridor Map – Data Definitions and Sources

Data Definitions

Corridors 2030

(See *Connections 2030 Chapter 5, Preserve and Maintain Wisconsin's Transportation System, for more information.*)

- Backbone system: Multilane, divided highways interconnecting all major population and economic centers of the state and linking them to the national transportation network
- Connector system: Two- and four-lane highways directly linking other significant economic and tourism centers to the Backbone system

State Access Management Plan vision

(See *Connections 2030 Chapter 9, Promote Transportation Efficiencies, for more information.*)

- Tier 1: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at interchanges (with some existing safely spaced, locked and gated emergency vehicle driveways and a few isolated field entrances possible at select locations)
- Tier 2A: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at at-grade public road intersections (with some existing safely spaced, locked and gated emergency vehicle driveways and few isolated field entrances)
- Tier 2B: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at at-grade public road intersections with some existing safely spaced, lower volume private, residential, field or emergency service driveways
- Tier 3: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at at-grade public road intersections with some existing safely spaced, higher volume private, residential and field or emergency service driveways
- Tier 4: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will be at safely spaced driveways and roads

State Airport System Plan classifications

- Air carrier (passenger)/air cargo: Designed to accommodate virtually all aircraft up to and, in some cases, including wide body jets and large military transports
- Transport/corporate: Intended to serve corporate, small passenger and cargo jet aircraft used in regional service, and small airplanes (piston or turboprop) used in commuter air service
- General utility: Intended to serve virtually all small aviation single and twin-engine aircraft (both piston and turboprop) with a maximum take-off weight of 12,500 pounds or less
- Basic utility: Intended to serve all small-engine piston aircraft and many of the smaller twin-engine piston aircraft with a gross takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or less

Truck volume descriptions

- Low (0 – 501 trucks per day), Medium (501 – 2,500 trucks per day),
- High (2,501 – 8,000 trucks per day), Very High (more than 8,000 trucks per day)

Urban/urbanized areas

- Urban areas: Areas with populations between 5,000 and 49,999
- Urbanized areas: Areas with populations of 50,000 or more

Data Sources

Annual average daily traffic (AADT)

- Current data: WisDOT, *2005 Wisconsin Highway Traffic Volume Data*, December 2006
- Forecast data: WisDOT, August 2007

Enplanements

- Current data: WisDOT, *2006 Wisconsin Aviation Activity*, April 2007
- Forecast data: Flight Transportation Associates, Inc., *Updated Wisconsin State Airport System Plan Aviation Activity Forecasts*, September 2005; Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, *Review and Update of Regional Airport System Plan Forecasts*, 2005

National Highway System (NHS) intermodal terminals

- Federal Highway Administration, October 2007

Passenger rail ridership

- Current data: WisDOT, 2007
- Forecast data:
 - › Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc., *Midwest Regional Rail Initiative Project Notebook*, 2004
 - › Forecast year 2020
 - › Forecast Milwaukee station data includes all Milwaukee area stations (Milwaukee Intermodal Station, General Mitchell International Airport and Granville)

Population

- Current population: Wisconsin Department of Administration, *January 1, 2007 Preliminary Population Estimates for Wisconsin Counties*, August 10, 2007
- 2030 Population: Wisconsin Department of Administration, *Final Population Projections for Wisconsin Counties by Age and Sex: 2000 – 2030*, January 2004
- Current Age 65 and older population: 2000 US Census, Summary File 1, Variable P12: Sex by Age
- 2030 Age 65 and older population: Wisconsin Department of Administration, *Final Population Projections for Wisconsin Counties by Age and Sex: 2000 – 2030*, January 2004

Public and specialized transit

- WisDOT, January 2008

Truck volume

- WisDOT, August 2007

Wisconsin Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- Chippewa – Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation Plan 2005 – 2030*, October 2005
- Dubuque Metro Area Transportation Study, *2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan*
- Duluth – Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council, *Access and Mobility for People and Freight 2030*, September 2005

- Fond du Lac Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fond du Lac Urbanized Area*, October 2005
- Fox Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fox Cities Urbanized Area*, October 2005
- Green Bay Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation Plan*, November 2005
- Janesville Metropolitan Planning Organization, *2005 – 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan*, December 2005
- La Crosse Area Planning Committee, *2030 La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan*, August 2005
- Madison Area Transportation Planning Board, *Regional Transportation Plan 2030*, November 2005
- Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Oshkosh Urbanized Area*, October 2005
- Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Year 2035 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan*, January 2006
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, *Planning Report 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin 2035*, March 2006
- Stateline Area Transportation Study, *2006 – 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan*, December 2005
- Wausau Metropolitan Planning Commission, *Wausau Area Metropolitan Area Long-Range Transportation Plan – 2035*, December 2005

Wisconsin Tribal Transportation Plans

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, *Long Range Tribal Transportation Plan*, July 2006
- Forest County Potawatomi Community, *Long Range Transportation Plan*, March 2008
- Ho-Chunk Nation, *Ho-Chunk Nation Long Range Transportation Plan*, June 2005, amended March 2007
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, *2006 Transportation Plan*, March 2006
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, *Long-Range Transportation Plan*, February 2007
- Menominee Nation, *Menominee Indian Reservation Long-Range Transportation Plan*, May 2007
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, *Transportation Improvement Plan*, December 2003, amended March 2007
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Red Cliff Reservation*, February 2006
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, *St. Croix Tribal Council 2007 Long Range Transportation Plan*, March 2007
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community, *Long Range Transportation Plan*, March 2007
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, *2006 Tribal Long-Range Transportation Plan Update*, May 2007

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