



## 2023-2024 Highway Transfer Program

Date Originated: 1/1/2023  
Date of Modifications:  
Policy Number:

### 1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a program for which Iowa County begins to compensate townships for accepting jurisdictional transfers of specific County highways.

At the time of adoption, Iowa County maintained 366 miles of County Highways. Based on the amount of available funding for improvements, the county takes 120 years to replace all 366 miles. The funding needed to improve this timeline is unrealistic and not sustainable. As a result, Iowa County must make decisions based on traffic use and highway location when scheduling reconstruction activities and investing County tax dollars.

Under state aid formulas, which ever local government maintains responsibility for a highway gets annual assistance from the state in support of that highway. For Counties, the formula is based on a total expenses per mile share-of-cost method through averaging of 6-year rolling costs. As the formula for counties is based on a share of transportation related expenses, Iowa County is currently maxing out its' aid available due to tax levy caps and therefore no longer benefitting from maintaining all 366 miles of highway. At the Township level, the amount of aid is based on a per mile of maintenance payout. Due to the level of County funding, there are specific highways that are never likely to see any improvements completed by Iowa County. These highways will continue to degrade.

Townships where these County highways are located may find it beneficial to accept a jurisdictional transfer and begin collecting additional per mile state aid. Iowa County would like to pursue a policy of allowing jurisdictional transfers for low volume highways to townships and will incentivize said transfers in order to reduce the number of highway miles under County jurisdiction.

### 2. ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED:

This policy applies to all County highways listed in this policy and the townships they are located in.

### 3. POLICY:

Functional classification is a process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes or systems according to the character of service they are intended to provide. In basic terms, a highway can be functionally classified as:

- Arterial are designations for roads serving to provide mobility such that traffic can move for one place or destination to another quickly and safely with little interruption.
- Collector are designations for roads serving to link Arterials and local roads to each other and provide some duties of each class.
- Local are designations for roads primarily serving to provide start / end of route access to homes, businesses, or other similar properties.

Generally, Arterial roads are state or federal high volume highways and interstates, Collector roads are County or Regional Trunk Highways, and Local are Municipal (City, Town, or Village) streets or roads providing access at start or end of travel locations.

A. Therefore, per Functional Classification definitions; County Trunk Highways with a designation of Low Volume or Local Roads are of a Town Road status and would qualify for this program. Of the Iowa County Trunk Highway system 28.2% (103.3 Miles) are identified as Low Volume or Local Roads, and; therefore would be eligible for this program. Of this road listing, Iowa County has identified the following highways as having the lowest reconstruction priority and are hereby eligible for this program:

1. Eden Township – County Highway B from Highway 80 to County Highway J
2. Arena Township – County Highway CC from County C to Highway 14
3. Arena Township – County HH from Town Line Road to County H
4. Waldwick Township – County DD from Highway 39 to County K
5. Waldwick Township – County HK from County K to Town Line Road
6. Waldwick Township – County U from County DD to Highway 39
7. Mineral Point Township – County DD from Highway 39 to County K
8. Mineral Point Township – County QQ from Highway 39 to Town Line Road
9. Moscow Township – County DD from Highway 39 to County K
10. Moscow Township – County HK from Town Line Road to County H
11. Brigham Township – County HH from County K to Town Line Road
12. Dodgeville Township – County M from County Q to Highway 130
13. Dodgeville Township – County ZZ from Highway 23 to Town Line Road
14. Pulaski Township – County NN from County N to Town Line Road
15. Clyde Township – County NN from Town Line Road to Highway 130
16. Highland Township – County PP from County P to County I
17. Linden Township – County QQ from Highway 39 to Town Line Road
18. Ridgeway Township – County ZZ from County Y to Town Line Road

B. Iowa County is prepared to transfer any of the highways from 3(A) to a township level of government located within Iowa County beginning in 2023.

C. Iowa County will incentivize the transfer of these highways to townships with the payment of \$30,000 per mile. Payable immediately after road transfer.

D. Townships shall also begin receiving funding annually from the State of Wisconsin General Transportation Aid program for said lane miles once transferred to their jurisdiction.

E. Townships participating in this program will receive annual payments from state aid and a one-time payment from Iowa County. How they invest these funds are entirely up to them.

#### 4. REFERENCES:

Wisconsin State Statute Sections - General Municipality Law §§66.1005 Reversion of Title; State Trunk Highways, Federal Aid §§ CH 84.0; Wisconsin General Transportation Aid Program §§86.30; and Platting Lands and Recording and Vacating Plats §§236.43 Vacation or Alteration of Areas Dedicated to the Public.

#### 5. PROCEDURES:

- a. Should a township listed under 3(A) decide they would like to pursue a jurisdictional transfer, they shall contact the Iowa County Highway Commissioner. The Highway Commissioner will create the paperwork needed for the Township and County to approve.

- b. The Highway Commissioner will collect the signed document from the Township and present it to the County Board for approval.
- c. Once the jurisdictional transfer is approved by both governmental entities, it shall be filed with the state of Wisconsin and properly recorded along with the revisions of their respective system maintenance mileage for General Transportation Aid payments.
- d. The incentive payment from Iowa County shall be issued within seven days after the Iowa County Board has adopted the jurisdictional transfer.

This "Highway Transfer Program" will be reviewed and updated every two years.

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