

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOT 2/23/2009

LRB Number	09-1137/1	Introduction Number	SB-055	Estimate Type	Original
Description The regulation, preservation, and restoration of historic buildings; the supplement to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit and the state historic rehabilitation tax credit; requiring the certification of downtowns; promoting certain downtown areas in this state; highway projects involving business and downtown areas; granting rule-making authority; and making appropriations					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Senate Bill 55 imposes two requirements for WisDOT:

1. During the preliminary phases of a proposed highway project funded by the DOT, the agency is required to consult with existing communities under the State Main Street Program and other downtowns certified by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce as to the effects of the project on the business or certified downtown area.

No fiscal impact. (The public outreach requirement for the DOT to contact communities impacted by construction of highway projects in the downtown area will not likely result in additional hours or costs on the regional staff. As a matter of practice, the regional project managers and their contractors meet regularly with local officials and residents in advance of upcoming transportation projects. Regional staff helps the local communities develop and provide alternative access to downtown businesses. Discussions and actions are taken to mitigate project impacts to the communities.)

2. During the concept definition phase of a highway project, DOT is directed to recognize the high visual and aesthetic significance of, and impact related to, these types of highway projects (intent of the provision directs DOT to recognize impacts for the existing and certified main street communities by the Department of Commerce).

No Fiscal Impact. (Under the DOT's Community Sensitive Design initiative, 5% of the total project cost could be allocated to reduce or enhance the visual and aesthetics of the downtown business district. The exact amount of the award is based upon the discretion of the DOT manager of the highway project. These projects might include decorative lighting, landscaping, planting, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, park benches, banners and signage.)

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

No long range fiscal implications.