



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
4822 Madison Yards Way, S903
Madison, WI 53705

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Craig Thompson
wisconsindot.gov
Telephone: (608) 266-1114
FAX: (608) 266-9912
Email: sec.exec@dot.wi.gov

Testimony of Joel Nilsestuen, Assistant Deputy Secretary
Assembly Committee on Transportation Public Hearing
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Chairman Kulp and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of Assembly Bill 486 on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). I am here today in support of this technical fix so that WisDOT can administer \$2.5 Million in supplemental transportation aid as intended in the 2019-2021 biennial budget.

Due to a drafting error in 2019 Wisconsin Act 9, WisDOT is required to make supplemental aid payments to towns receiving aid on a share-of-costs basis that are limited by the average costs threshold. However, a majority of towns currently receive their aid based on mileage. Without a change in statute, WisDOT would be unable to award any supplemental transportation.

AB 486 modifies the supplemental aid payments to instead require DOT to make the payments to towns receiving aid based on mileage. This change will allow WisDOT to provide these supplemental transportation aids as originally intended in 2019 Wisconsin Act 9.

Under current law, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation administers a general transportation aids program that makes transportation aid payments to a county based on a share-of-costs formula, and to a municipality based on the greater of a share-of-costs formula or an aid rate per mile. Under the program, no municipality may be paid an amount greater than 85 percent of its three-year average costs.

2019 Wisconsin Act 9 provided \$2.5 Million SEG annually as a supplemental transportation aid to Towns. This provision was intended to supplement mileage aid payments to towns that are currently limited by the 85% of three-year average cost limitation under the general transportation aid program. Under this appropriation, each year that any town subject to the 85% of three-year average cost limitation under the general transportation aid program would be eligible to receive a supplemental mileage aid payment. Any supplemental aid payment, when combined with a town's general transportation aid payment, could not exceed 100% of that town's three-year average costs submitted under the general transportation aid program.

AB 486 is a technical fix to a drafting error. This fix will allow WisDOT to provide supplemental transportation aid to 144 towns across the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.