

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

### **DTIM BTLRRH 26**

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on DTIM BTLRRH 26, Wisconsin State Statute 85.08, a proposed guidance document.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/dot/guidance-docs?guidDocId=DTIMBTLRRH26>

2. Mailing written comments to:

Division of Transportation Investment Management  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7913  
Madison, WI 53707- 7913

### **WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at [wisconsindot.gov](http://wisconsindot.gov) to allow for ongoing comment.

### **AGENCY CONTACT**

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## State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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# Freight Railroad Preservation Program

## Assistance programs

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The Freight Rail Preservation Program (FRPP) is one of two freight rail assistance programs WisDOT administers (also see the [Freight Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program \[FRIIP\]](#)). Wisconsin's original rail assistance program was created in 1977 to help communities and shippers preserve freight rail service during an era when widespread railroad bankruptcies and line abandonments threatened the availability of rail service in Wisconsin.

Initially, the program was limited to grants to local governments because of constitutional restrictions on state assistance to railroads. But in 1992, Wisconsin voters approved a constitutional amendment that included railroads in the list of internal improvements state money could fund.

In 1992, the original rail assistance grant program was replaced by the current FRPP program, which provides grants to local units of government, industries, and railroads for the purpose of preserving essential rail lines and rehabilitating them following purchase. Statutory information about Wisconsin freight railroad assistance can be found in [Wis. Stats. 85.08](#).

Since 1980, under both the original rail assistance program and FRPP, some \$280 million in grants have been awarded for rail acquisition and rehabilitation projects. The FY2018-2019 state budget provides \$12 million in bonding authority for the FRPP program for the biennium.

- [FRPP grant and FRIIP loan projects](#) (Updated July 2018)

The Freight Railroad Preservation Program provides grants up to 80% of the cost:

To purchase abandoned rail lines in an effort to continue freight service, or for the preservation of the opportunity for future rail service

- To rehabilitate facilities, such as tracks or bridges, on publicly-owned rail lines

SFY 2019 FRPP application materials are available to download:

- [FRPP application instructions](#)
- [FRPP application forms](#)

For additional information, please contact:

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Railroads and Harbors Section  
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[richard.kedzior@dot.wi.gov](mailto:richard.kedzior@dot.wi.gov)

Related information:

- [Freight Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program](#)
- [Railroad crossing improvements](#)
- [Wisconsin Railroads and Harbors Map](#)
- [Standard Specifications for Jointed Railroad Track Construction & Maintenance](#)

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