

From: Patronsky, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006 1:53 PM
To: Mautz, Kelly
Subject: FW: Response Regarding Funding of Trails for Leg Council Committee

Attachments: EnhancementResponse.doc

From: Huber, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2006 10:47 AM
To: Piliouras, Elizabeth; Patronsky, Mark
Cc: Miller, Katherine - DOT; Duffe, John; Donlin, James; Switzer, Aileen
Subject: Response Regarding Funding of Trails for Leg Council Committee

Elizabeth and Mark, here is our Dept's response to the question on funding that came up at the last meeting. Recently, we have had a flurry of inquiries and letters advocating that the Department include in our proposed budget to the Governor a higher TE amount. So I have also included a letter that the Secretary has sent to many of those folks that explains TE funding in the context of all federal funding and our budget. I will bring hard copies to the meeting tomorrow of our response below.

Response On Federal Funding for Trails:

During a discussion of Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding at the last committee meeting, Representative Ott asked what priority WisDOT puts on the funding level for this program. Since WisDOT had not yet submitted its budget to the Governor's Office, I was not able to answer that question in specific terms. Perhaps specifics about the budget can be shared at Friday's meeting.

Federal TE funding is included within the formula based federal program, which funds transportation improvements: Safety, Surface Transportation System, National Highway System, Bridge, Interstate Maintenance etc. Since this funding is provided to Wisconsin as a lump sum, numerous factors are considered in setting funding levels for each specific WisDOT program. In general, Transportation Enhancement funding is in the middle range of funding priorities.

There are 12 eligible funding categories for the TE program and trails can be funded under two of those categories. WisDOT typically places a high priority for trails *within* the TE program. Approximately 50% of all approved projects in these 12 categories are trails.

Although Representative Ott's question was related to the TE program, it is important to note that WisDOT is investing in trail improvements along its state highways using other funding sources. There are many more opportunities to include trails along 4-lane roadways than 2-lane roadways and when a decision is made to include trails, typically the same source of funding as being used for the highway is used for the trail. This is also the case for short urban trails built within our rights-of-ways.

Secretary's Busalacchi's Response to TE Letters:



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