



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #773

Lift Bridge Aids (DOT -- Local Transportation Aids)

Bill Agency

CURRENT LAW

Municipalities are reimbursed, from a biennial appropriation, for 100% of actual costs incurred in operating and maintaining swing or lift bridges on connecting highways. If the biennial appropriation is insufficient to provide full reimbursement, payments are prorated in the manner deemed desirable by DOT. In 2006-07, \$1,918,900 SEG is provided to make lift bridge payments.

GOVERNOR

No provision.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Lift bridge aid is paid on the first Monday in July for costs incurred during the previous calendar year. For example, the lift bridge aid payment made in July, 2007, will be in reimbursement for actual costs incurred by the cities during calendar year 2006 (the cities must submit documentation of their costs by January 31). There are currently 10 lift bridges on connecting highways operating in the state, which are located in the cities of Green Bay, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Racine, and Two Rivers.

2. If state funding is not sufficient to cover the annual costs of operation of the lift bridges, the available funds are prorated to pay a percentage of actual costs. Funding for lift bridge aids was increased in 2006-07 from \$1,739,900 to the current level of \$1,918,900.

3. From 1984-85 (1983 costs) through 2002-03 (2001 costs), the state appropriated

funds sufficient to reimburse 100% of the local calendar year costs for operating and maintaining swing or lift bridges on connecting highways. Prorated payments occurred in 2003-04 (93.8% of 2002 costs) and 2004-05 (89.4% of 2003 costs). Since that time, no annual payments have been prorated.

4. The following table indicates the 2006 actual costs and the 2007-08 prorated lift bridge aid payments for each bridge, if only base level funding is provided and DOT makes the full proration (98.5%) in July, 2007. In 2007-08, an additional \$29,500 would be have to provided in order to fully cover the municipalities' 2006 lift bridge costs and avoid the prorated payment amount shown in the table. The 2007-08 appropriation would be set at \$1,948,400

2007-08 Lift Bridge Aid Under Full Funding and Prorated Payment

<u>Bridge</u>	<u>2006 Actual Costs</u>	<u>Prorated Aid Under Base Funding</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Green Bay -- Main Street	\$302,965	\$298,380	-\$4,585
Manitowoc -- 8th Street	190,440	187,558	-2,882
Manitowoc -- 10th Street	17,944	17,673	-271
Milwaukee -- Broadway Street	350,831	345,522	-5,309
Milwaukee -- Kinnickinnic and 1st	345,811	340,578	-5,233
Milwaukee -- State Street	17,931	17,660	-271
Milwaukee -- Wells Street	23,429	23,075	-354
Racine -- Main Street	414,363	408,092	-6,271
Racine -- State Street	283,276	278,990	-4,286
Two Rivers -- Madison Street	<u>1,393</u>	<u>1,372</u>	<u>-21</u>
TOTAL	\$1,948,383	\$1,918,900	-\$29,483

5. The eligible municipalities have also submitted projected lift bridge costs for the 2007 calendar year, which will be reimbursed through the 2008-09 lift bridge appropriation. These estimated costs total \$2,294,400, which exceeds the base level funding amount. In order to fully fund these 2007 estimated costs, the Committee would have to provide \$375,500 in 2008-09. Alternatively, if no increase in funding is provided, 2008-09 lift bridge payments would be prorated at 83.6% of the estimated 2007 costs.

ALTERNATIVES TO BILL

1. Provide \$29,500 SEG in 2007-08 and \$375,500 SEG in 2008-09 for lift bridge aids to reimburse communities for the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of lift bridges on connecting highways

ALT 1	Change to Bill Funding	Change to Base Funding
SEG	\$405,000	\$405,000

2. Maintain current law. (No additional funding would be provided and payments would be prorated at 98.5% for 2006 costs and at 83.6% for 2007, based on estimated costs).

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