



WISCONSIN TOWNS
ASSOCIATION

Empowering Town Officials

W7686 County Road MMM
Shawano, WI 54166
715-526-3157
wtowns@wisctowns.com
www.wisctowns.com

For Immediate Release
Contact: Mike Koles
WTA Executive Director
(715) 526-3157

June 27, 2019

The WTA Appreciates Lawmakers Efforts to Invest in Town Roads

The Wisconsin Towns Association appreciates lawmaker's efforts to invest in town roads.

"The combined strategies of Governor Evers to increase General Transportation Aids by 10% that was concurred with by the Assembly and Senate and the legislature's proposal to provide \$35.1 million in one-time TRIP-D funding are important steps in fixing town roads so the agriculture, timber, and tourism industries can succeed" stated Lee Engelbrecht, WTA President.

Mike Koles, WTA Executive Director added, "We are especially appreciative of the legislature's addition to the Joint Finance proposal that provides \$5 million in supplemental funding targeted toward addressing both flaws in the GTA formula and the phenomenon of low equalized value, low spending towns."

Without the leadership of key rural Senators and Representatives, nearly 100 towns would have received no additional funding and many others would have received less than what was appropriated. The combined average equalized value of 157 towns that would have lost money is only \$52.9 million. This fact and generally low revenue generating capacity results, in part, from legislative policies related to public land, the Managed Forest Law, and use value taxation. Ironically, towns impacted by these policies are often the ones that require significant infrastructure investments for the same industries the policies are intended to assist. We look forward to a continued discussion about how Wisconsin can invest in the first and last mile infrastructure in these towns in order to support our struggling agriculture industry and enhance wood products, paper, and tourism economies.

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