



Transportation Finance Issues

How is transportation money spent?

Legislature approves a biennial spending plan

- The legislature debates and approves a biennial budget for transportation spending. The state transportation budget for 2011-2013 totals \$6.5 billion. Major categories of spending include:
 - State highway expenditures
 - Local aids and capital assistance
 - State operations, including motor vehicle services and State Patrol

Most highway funds are used on existing roads and bridges

- The largest part of the state highway budget goes toward rehabilitating existing highways and bridges.
- About 6.6% of the total budget goes toward the maintenance and operation of the current system.
- Major highway construction is a small part of the total budget (about 11.4%).

Almost one-third of total budget is returned to local communities

- General transportation aids (GTA), the largest category of local aid, is used to partially offset the cost of maintaining and improving the road system owned by local governments.
- State transit aids provide a large share of the operating costs of public transit systems.
- GTA and transit represent nearly 94% of the local aids budget.
- Local transportation capital assistance includes support for rail, harbor and aeronautics programs, as well as funding for bike and pedestrian facilities and local road and bridge projects.

Division of Motor Vehicles and State Patrol part of the transportation budget

- The “other category of spending in WisDOT’s budget finances all of the departments non-modal activities. This includes long-range planning, Division of Motor Vehicles, Division of State Patrol and the department’s administrative costs.

