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TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Transportation networks are a critical determinant of growth and development in a community or region and have a significant impact on community character. The Town of Dunn is served by regional and local street networks. Other regional transportation facilities accessible to Dunn residents, but located outside of the Town, include: freight and passenger rail, airport service, bike and pedestrian routes, and recreation trails.

The Town of Dunn, like most rural communities with low development densities, is automobile dependent. This means that most trips both within and outside of the Town will be made by personal automobile and currently there is relatively low demand for alternative commuter transportation modes, such as ridesharing, transit and bicycling. Therefore, the current transportation system is primarily designed for automobiles. However, Town residents have expressed interest in these alternative modes of transportation and this plan therefore encourages a diversified, affordable transportation network within the Town and region to accommodate alternative transportation options.

Goal 1: The Town of Dunn will work with Dane County and neighboring jurisdictions to maintain the Town’s existing roads, explore alternative transportation options and provide a safe, efficient and economically sound transportation system that meets the needs of its residents, farmers, businesses and visitors, while respecting the Town’s unique environmental, agricultural and historical resources.

1-1: Maintain and improve a balanced, efficient and low cost transportation system.

Action 1-1a: Continue to prepare and annually update a multi-year transportation improvement plan to identify and prioritize short-term and long-term needs and funding sources for improvements to existing roads. Periodically review needs for pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails, and other transportation facilities. Allow for public review and comment, and involve directly affected parties in the decision-making process.

Action 1-1b: Give priority to maintaining and enhancing existing transportation facilities before adding new facilities or capacity; adopt a “Fix it First” policy.

Action 1-1c: Consider implementing Town road impact fees for new development projects that place a burden on or require the upgrading of Town roads.

Action 1-1d: Support efforts of the Madison Metro bus system to work with neighboring communities to provide transit access that is accessible to residents of the Town of Dunn.

Action 1-1e: Support Dane County and other regional efforts to create alternative transportation options to the automobile. In particular, encourage commuter rail service and commuter express bus/rail service.

Action 1-1f: Continue to explore and support regional alternative transportation options that benefit Town residents, including the use of “dead” spaces, such as parking lots during off-peak times, as potential “park and ride” areas.

Action 1-1g: Work with the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and Dane County to classify the following roads as collectors:

- Schneider Road
- Lake Kegonsa Road
- Rutland-Dunn Town Line Road

1-2: Improve safety problems at dangerous intersections and existing or potentially hazardous areas.

Action 1-2a: Coordinate with the County and the State to improve dangerous intersections. Based on the comprehensive Town household survey conducted in 2004, residents identified the following intersections as traffic hazard areas:

- Intersection of CTH B and USH 51
- Intersections at CTH B, CTH AB, USH 51-traffic moving too quickly

1-3: Ensure rural roads are safe for everyone, including cyclists, motorists and farm machinery.

Action 1-3a: Clear brush from the roadside in high volume traffic areas so that farm equipment can safely pull off the side of the road.

Action 1-3b: Educate Town residents and visitors about how farm equipment, motorists and bicyclists can safely share the road. Consider providing signage notifying motorists that the Town is a farming community and to be aware of farm vehicles on the roads. Encourage the use of signs posted on private property cautioning vehicles to slow down during periods of high farm vehicle activity.

Action 1-3c: Work with farmers to provide adequate warning signage and lighting on farm equipment when using public roads.

Action 1-3d: When transportation facilities are upgraded, do not inconvenience farmers or make it difficult for farmers to safely and conveniently move livestock or equipment.

- 1-4:** Support efforts to improve the existing Town and regional transportation system to ensure it meets the needs of residents who are elderly or disabled.
- Action 1-4a:** Work with surrounding communities and Dane County to continue to support cost effective transportation services to transit-dependent and disabled residents.
- 1-5:** Accommodate and encourage safe, convenient, non-motorized transportation choices (pedestrian, bicycle, etc.).
- Action 1-5a:** Work with the County to provide feasible, non-motorized transportation options.
- Action 1-5b:** Identify major issues and deficiencies related to pedestrian and bicycle activities (e.g. overall use/demand, lack of bikeways and connectivity, safety issues, etc.) and work to improve these issues and deficiencies.
- Action 1-5c:** Consider supporting a unified regional system for multi-use trails/transportation in the Town.
- Action 1-5d:** If rumble strips are installed on Town roads, an adequate smooth, paved shoulder beyond the rumble strips should be provided to accommodate bicyclists.
- Action 1-5e:** Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Dane County to create on-road bicycle facilities (e.g. paved shoulders) in conjunction with roadway reconstruction and install necessary bicycle route signage.

Goal 2: The Town’s transportation system will be designed to protect the rural character of the Town and minimize impacts on the natural environment to the greatest extent possible.

- 2-1:** Ensure that decisions regarding transportation are consistent with other elements of this Comprehensive Plan and do not adversely impact the Town’s outstanding natural or agricultural resources.
- Action 2-1a:** Work with WisDOT, Dane County and others to ensure that transportation improvements are consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Action 2-1b:** Maintain Lalor Road and Dyreson Road as Rustic Roads.
- Action 2-1c:** Support access control and rural character objectives by discouraging “side of the road” development on state and county highways, and especially along USH 51.
- Action 2-1d:** Discourage development that would require new Town roads and oppose any new highways through the Town.
- Action 2-1e:** Ensure all transportation systems are designed and maintained to enhance the Town’s rural character by pursuing efforts to maintain scenic views.