

Wisconsin Towns Association

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MEMO TO: Town Clerks and Chairs
FROM: Mike Koles, Executive Director
RE: 9/29 Turnout for Transportation
DATE: 8/26/16

Thank you for taking leadership to make the Turnout for Transportation a huge success. By now, you've noted the importance of this event in the July, August, and September magazines and an email from me. This correspondence serves to provide the detail necessary to prepare for the meeting. Any further information will be sent via email.

In this unprecedented event, town, county, city, and village officials from all 72 counties in Wisconsin will gather to have their voices heard. Through simultaneous meetings, local government leaders will help our state government officials understand that failure to find a sustainable solution to infrastructure funding is not good for public safety, not good for the economy, and will result in taxpayers spending more money in the long run on debt or completely broken infrastructure.

The meeting will begin at 7:00pm on Thursday, September 29th. The locations are almost solidified and will be posted at <https://www.turnoutfortransportation.com> in the near future. Please note, this website might still be under development if you visit it within the next week or so. I've included a meeting notice template that you can use to post the meeting. This is also being emailed in a Microsoft Word format.

The meeting will be led by three individuals, one each from a town, city/village, and the county. We will be asking Unit Chairs to be the town leader. The three person team will provide a brief presentation or play a DVD provided by WTA, WCA, and the League of WI Municipalities. Following the brief presentation, it's each local government's turn to share their stories.

In preparation for sharing your story, we ask that you:

1. Identify three specific infrastructure situations that are plaguing you. This could be the inability to adequately maintain certain roads, inability to reconstruct infrastructure, no money to replace bridges or culverts, lack of funding for sign replacement, or perhaps you've been pushed to borrow and are asking your grandkids to pay for our roads today. If you have not held your September Town Board meeting, this is a great time to have this discussion.

For each of the three situations, specifically identify how it is negatively impacting the town. For example, it could be having a negative impact on the economy, public safety, local businesses, or residents. Please be specific when you identify your impact.

EXAMPLE: Town line road is filled with potholes. This road stretches 6 miles and the whole thing needs to be reconstructed. The base is still a corrugated road and the wood has rotted over the years. The potholes are so big that when it rains cars sometimes hydroplane over them. One person went in the ditch last year because of this and was injured.

EXAMPLE: Town line road has storm sewer that has broken down. During even moderate rainstorms, it floods at the intersection with Johnson Street and blocks people from getting into Kwik Trip. Last year, a car stalled in the water and caused a safety issue because traffic was backed up for five blocks.

EXAMPLE: Town line road is the link to the area lakes. It carries a lot of tourist traffic. The lack of money caused us to return part of the road to gravel. The tourists are not used to this and several have jackknifed their boats because they don't know how to drive on gravel. We fear this will cause them to not come to our town and spend money in our local businesses.

EXAMPLE: Town line road has two large farms on it. One of the box culverts is rated at 20 tons and is very narrow. The machinery cannot travel over this culvert, which makes the farmers travel well out of their way to harvest crops and spread manure. This is negatively impacting their business.

EXAMPLE: Town line road is very narrow. If a car and farm implement approach at the same time, they must both go over into the shoulder. Part of the road goes through a wetland. Last year, a car was passing when the Coop was delivering lime. The Coop's truck got on the soft edge and tipped over. This cost them a lot of money.

2. We also ask that you provide a written description (like above) for your three examples and either send them to Chris Loesl via hard copy or email (chris.loesl@wisctowns.com).
3. Post the meeting notice.
4. In a perfect world, we'd love to have you provide a picture in your email to Chris as well. But we do know that this is asking a lot. If you have the time, please consider doing that.
5. Most importantly.....ATTEND the meeting and share your story.

On a related matter, if your town has not passed the transportation resolution that was sent to Clerks via email in early July, please pass this resolution at the next Town Board meeting and send it via hard copy or email to Chris Loesl (chris.loesl@wisctowns.com). A copy of the resolution is available on our website.