



THE БЕЛОIT REPORT

CONTINUING ITS RESURGENCE AS THE GEM OF THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY

CURRENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**JANUARY 30,
2015**

*A weekly publication
from the Office of the
City Manager*

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Special points of interest:

- **City Council Meeting
Agenda (page 2)**
- **Community Events
(page 3)**

I-39/90 and I-43/WISCONSIN STATE TRUNK HWY 81 IMPROVEMENTS

As we've noted in previous Reports, the State Department of Transportation, along with their consulting engineers, will be in the City on **February 11, 2015 at the Beloit Public Library Community Room, 605 Eclipse Blvd.** to conduct a Public Hearing. The Hearing will convene at 5:30 p.m. and continue until 7:30 p.m. Interested parties may attend anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to review displays and other materials, ask questions and provide testimony. A copy of the hearing notice issued by the Department is [attached](#) to the Beloit Report for more information.

BELOIT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY—BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

The Beloit International Film Festival (BIFF) will begin on February 20 and runs this year through March 1, 2015. They are celebrating their 10th anniversary by extending the length of the festival and holding some additional special events. The release party was held this past Monday, January 26th, and Rod Beaudoin made the announcement that my wife, Karen, and I will serve as honorary hosts for this year's film festival. We were very much surprised and honored by the recognition. Rod indicated that the Board had made the selection based on our support for the arts here in Beloit over the past 12 years.

BIFF will have a special opening party on Friday, February 20 in downtown Beloit to celebrate the Festival as it reaches its 10th birthday. There will be a really special silent film presentation, scheduled for February 28, with the venue changing to "The Castle" located at 501 Prospect Ave. Please click [here](#) for more Festival information and to purchase tickets. Once again, BIFF has grown into not only an internationally renowned Film Festival, but is also one of those unique events that makes Beloit special. We hope everyone will come out this year, enjoy some great independent films, and support *your* International Film Festival.

SPRING PRIMARY NEEDED IN THE CLINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PORTION OF БЕЛОIT

A small portion of the far east end of the City of Beloit is located in the Clinton School District. The City was notified that a determination has been made that a primary is required in that district. Consequently, the City Clerk's office will be holding a primary election on February 17, 2015 in Wards 23 and 24. This primary will impact only about 300-500 residential units in the City of Beloit; however, the polling place for those wards will remain open the entire day as required by State Law to facilitate participation in the primary voting by eligible residents who reside in the Clinton School District. Please see [attached](#).

Beginning Monday, February 2, 2015, electors registered to vote in the City of Beloit who are located within the Clinton Community School District boundaries may cast an absentee ballot in person for the February 17, Spring Primary Election. Absentee ballots may be cast in the City Clerk's Office located at 100 State Street on the 2nd Floor through Friday, February 13, 2015.

The only contest on the ballot is a primary for the School Board in the Clinton Community School District. Only voters who live in this school district, located in Wards 23, 24, and 25 are eligible to vote in this election. For additional information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (608) 364-6680. Please see [attached](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We updated a number of projects in last week's Beloit Report, but want to note that City officials are working with representatives from Pratt Industries and their design consultants on various permit issues that will be required from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A meeting was held this week and another is scheduled for Monday to continue work on these permitting processes.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

The City Council will hold a [Workshop](#) in the City Manager's Conference Room at 6:30 p.m. to review the agenda of the regular 7:00 p.m. City Council meeting.

The attached [agenda](#) is for the **Monday, February 2, 2015** regular City Council meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum.

3. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS—None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the **Minutes** of the regular meeting of January 20, 2015.
- b. Application for a **Recreation Path** in Big Hill Park. This is an application for the combination bicycle/pedestrian path that is planned for Big Hill Park. This project has received grant funding and was the second phase of the bike/ped improvements in Big Hill Park that resulted in the bridge across Goose Creek, which was dedicated this past year. We still hope to be able to construct the path during the upcoming construction season. This application is being referred to the Plan Commission for their review and recommendation.
- c. Application for **Conditional Use Permit** to allow indoor alcohol sales in a C-2, Neighborhood Commercial District, for the property located at 412 Liberty Ave. This property is operated and known as Liberty Mart. A liquor license existed on the property in the past but was revoked by Council several years ago. Council also subsequently rejected an effort to reinstate the license. Apparently the business has now moved on to a second generation and the new owner wishes to again apply for a liquor license for this location. The matter is being referred to the Plan Commission for their review and recommendation.
- d. Application for **Sidewalk Easements** for the proposed Milwaukee Road Corridor Improvements. This action would result in the issuance of a relocation order for sidewalk easements that are required in order to construct additional sidewalks in the Milwaukee Road commercial corridor. This is the next phase of a series of improvements planned to the corridor between now and the time that the new Interstate reconstruction is completed. It is my understanding that all of the property owners have been contacted regarding the need for easements. The relocation order is a necessary step in the acquisition process when acquiring easements or right-of-way for public infrastructure improvements. This application is being referred to the Plan Commission for their review and recommendation.
- e. Resolution awarding **Public Works Contract C15-03** for concrete pavement repairs. This is the first of a series of contracts that will be brought forward for Council's consideration this year related to street improvements, per the 2015 Capital Spending Plan. Most of these improvements would be in the vicinity of Park and White Avenue, where pavement repairs are needed.

7. ORDINANCES—None

8. APPOINTMENTS—None

10. CITY MANAGER’S PRESENTATION —No presentations are scheduled for this meeting.

11. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND CITY OFFICERS

- a. Initial resolutions authorizing issuance of **General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2015B**. This resolution authorizes the City to issue an amount not to exceed \$760,000 of General Obligation promissory notes as provided for in the 2015 adopted budget for public purposes, including the acquisition of equipment. This sale of the Notes will be done through the normal public bid process.
- b. Initial Resolution authorizing the issuance of **General Obligation Bonds** in an amount not to exceed \$1,950,000 for Street Improvement Projects.
- c. Initial Resolution authorizing **General Obligation Bonds** in an amount not to exceed \$535,000 for Parks and Public Grounds Projects.
- d. Resolution directing Publication of Notice to Electors Relating to Bond Issues and Providing for the Sale of not to Exceed \$2,485,000 **General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2015C**. The issues in items a, b, and c (above) are combined into one issue of bonds. The Bonds will be offered for public sale through a bid process. Following receipt of bids, the City Council shall consider taking further action.
- e. Initial Resolution supporting the League of Wisconsin Municipalities’ **Partnership for Prosperity Legislative Agenda**. The League has asked member municipalities to consider resolutions articulating support for the League’s new policy initiative. The Partnership for Prosperity focuses on a number of issues to strengthen municipalities and improve their role in economic development and job creation activities. Revenue enhancements tied to economic development and job creation; TIF statutory improvements; and other revenue related issues to generate more flexibility for local governing boards comprise the Partnership for Prosperity. A copy of the League’s entire policy is included on the agenda and is [attached](#) for additional information.

CITY MEETING CALENDAR— FEBRUARY 2–6, 2015

Monday, Feb. 2	6:30 p.m.	Agenda Review , City Manager’s Conf. Room (All City Councilors)
Monday, Feb. 2	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting , Forum (All City Councilors)
Wednesday, Feb. 4	7:00 p.m.	Plan Commission , Forum (C. Kincaid)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

This is just a sample of events coming up in Beloit. A more complete listing is available on the Visit Beloit website: www.visitbeloit.com

Beloit Public Library offers many events for youth, teens and adults. Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information.

Feb. 6 8:00 a.m. **Legislative Breakfast** with Representative Amy Loudenberg & Senator Steve Nass, Ironworks Hotel, 500 Pleasant St. Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce and Alliant Energy. \$15 members/\$25 non-members. Please click [\[here\]](#) to register.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ON THE
LOCATION, DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL, STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM CHANGE
AND INTERSTATE BRIDGE ASPECTS
FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 39/90 AND INTERSTATE 43/WISCONSIN STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY 81
BETWEEN ILLINOIS 75 TO COUNTY HIGHWAY S AND CRANSTON ROAD TO WISCONSIN STATE
TRUNK HIGHWAY 140
ROCK COUNTY**

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are advised that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will hold a public hearing as provided by law to consider the location, design, environmental, Section 84.02 State Trunk Highway System change, and Section 84.12 interstate bridge aspects of the proposed improvement of Interstate Highway 39/90 and Interstate Highway 43/Wisconsin State Trunk Highway 81 including those aspects that may require application to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for the placement of fill materials into waters of the United States.

The purpose of the proposed I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange improvements is to upgrade the interchange to improve overall safety, meet current design standards, accommodate future traffic with an acceptable level of service (LOS), replace aging pavements and structures, and enhance local mobility to the city of Beloit. The project will provide a safe and efficient transportation system at the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange to serve existing and future traffic demands while minimizing disturbance to the surrounding environment.

The proposed project consists of reconstructing the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange. The project length totals 4.6 miles in the project area. The north-south leg of I-39/90 has a length of approximately 2.7 miles. The east-west leg of WIS 81/Milwaukee Road and I-43 has a length of approximately 1.9 miles. The alignment of I-39/90 will be shifted to the east such that the southbound lanes will be located on the existing location of the northbound lanes. It will also provide improved access to Gateway Business Park and maintains all other access to the Beloit urban area. The new I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange will include posted 65 mph free-flow movements from I-43 southbound to I-39/90 southbound and from I-39/90 northbound to I-43 northbound. It will also include posted 55 mph free-flow movements from I-39/90 southbound to I-43 northbound and from I-43 southbound to I-39/90 northbound.

The project will have right-of-way impacts in the project area. It is anticipated that 82 acres of land will be needed to build the preferred alternative. The project will include 0.6 acres of wetland impacts. New roadway improvements at the I-39/90 crossing of Spring Brook will impact 1.9 acres of the 100-year floodplain. Through highway design, the proposed improvements will not impact the floodplain boundaries in this area.

Further information concerning the proposed improvement is available for review at the Department's Southwest Region Project Office, 111 Interstate Boulevard, Edgerton, WI 53534. Information can also be viewed on the I-39/90 Expansion Project website at www.i39-90.wi.gov, under the South segment.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at the Beloit Public Library (Community Room), 605 Eclipse Boulevard, Beloit, WI 53511. The public hearing will be conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Interested persons may attend anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to review displays and other hearing materials, ask questions, and provide testimony.

The traditional-style portion of the public hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will end when all interested persons have provided testimony or 7:30 p.m., whichever occurs last. The traditional-style portion of the public hearing will begin with an informational project presentation prior to accepting traditional-style testimony from the public.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Hearing impaired persons needing assistance should contact the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System (dial 711). To allow for arranging assistance, please call no later than three working days prior to the public hearing.

WisDOT project staff and representatives will be available for informal discussion to explain the proposed improvements and answer questions. Exhibits of the proposal will be on display and a statement about the proposed improvement will be available for review.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and to present relevant verbal and/or written testimony concerning the general location and detailed design aspects of the proposed improvement; the proposed change in the State Trunk Highway System in accordance with the provisions of Section 84.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the necessity of and the eligibility for construction of the proposed interstate bridge in accordance with the provisions of Section 84.12 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the social, economic, and environmental impacts and effects of the proposed improvement including those impacts and effects for which permit application to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers may be required pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act; and whether the improvement is or is not in the public interest and consistent with the goals and objectives of area planning. Land acquisition and schedules for construction will be discussed at the public hearing.

Information on relocation assistance will also be available. It is anticipated that the relocation of persons will occur as a result of the proposed improvement. Any person who feels that he or she may be thus affected by the proposed improvement may obtain relocation assistance information by contacting Jamie Brud at (608) 884-1225, located at the Department's Southwest Region Project Office in Edgerton, WI.

All interested persons are notified of the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment of the proposal's impacts and effects which has been prepared and filed according to the State and National Environmental Policy Acts. This document indicates that no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of this improvement. The Environmental Assessment is available for inspection and copying at the following locations:

*Southwest Region Project Office
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
111 Interstate Blvd
Edgerton, WI 53534
(document located by the front desk)

Hill Farms Building
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Ave.
Madison, WI 53707
(document located in the Library)

Beloit City Hall
100 State Street
Beloit, WI 53511

Beloit Public Library
605 Eclipse Boulevard
Beloit, WI 53511

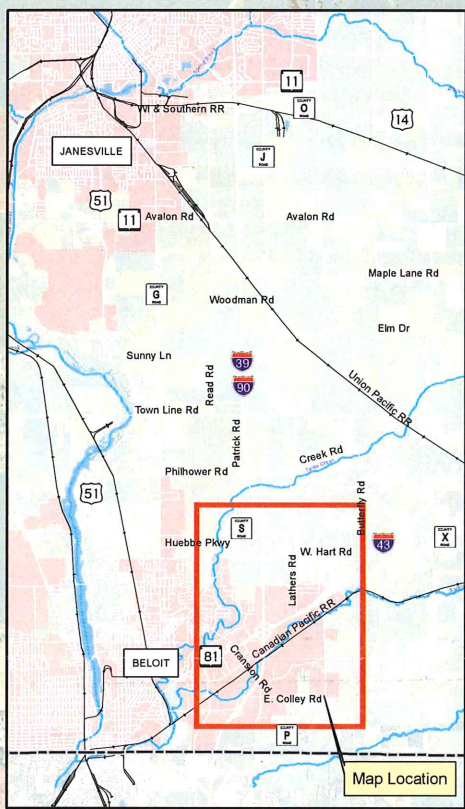
*Printed copies of the draft document may be obtained at this location. There may be a charge for this service. An online copy can be viewed on the I-39/90 Expansion Project website, www.i39-90.wi.gov, under the Resources tab and Environmental section.

Persons with an interest in or knowledge about historical and archaeological resources in the project area are invited to present such information at the public hearing.

Provisions have been made for the submission of written statements or other exhibits in place of or in addition to the testimony presented at the public hearing.

The Department of Transportation will review all comments and testimony presented as part of this public hearing process and reserves the right to make a final determination on the proposed improvements as described in this notice.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation System Development



End Project
1003-10-02

Hart Rd

Lathers Rd



Clinic Rd



Canadian Pacific RR

City of Beloit

Freeman Parkway



Gateway
Business
Park

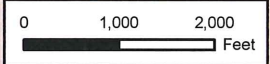


Cranston Rd

E. Colley Rd

Begin Project
1003-10-02

WI
Welcome
Center



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Project Area Study Limits Map

July 2014

Project No. 1003-10-02
 I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 Interchange
 I-39: WisDOT Welcome Center to E. Hart Road
 I-43: Freeman Parkway to CTH X/Hart Road Interchange
 City of Beloit
 Rock County, WI





City Clerk's Office, City Hall
100 State Street
Beloit, WI 53511
www.beloitwi.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Rebecca Houseman LeMire, City Clerk
(608) 364-6680
lemirer@beloitwi.gov

February 17, 2015 Spring Primary
Not Needed in the City of Beloit

January 7, 2015 – Beloit, WI: A primary election is typically held on the third Tuesday of each February in preparation for the Spring Election held on the first Tuesday in April. In 2015, a Spring Primary will not be needed in the City of Beloit because none of the contests on the April ballot require a primary.

The following contests will be on the April 7, 2015 Spring Election ballot in the City of Beloit:

- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Rock County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 3
- Rock County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 5
- Rock County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 6
- Beloit City Council
- Beloit School District Board of Education (where applicable)
- Beloit Turner School District Board of Education (where applicable)
- Clinton Community School District Board of Education (where applicable)

In summary, the Spring Primary Election that was scheduled for February 17, 2015, will not be needed. The next election in which City of Beloit voters may vote will be the Spring Election on April 7, 2015. Voters will use their regular polling places. If you have questions about your polling place, registering to vote, or voting by absentee ballot, please contact the Beloit City Clerk's Office.

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City Clerk's Office, City Hall
100 State Street
Beloit, WI 53511
www.beloitwi.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Rebecca Houseman LeMire, City Clerk
lemirer@beloitwi.gov
(608) 364-6680

**Absentee Voting In Person for the February 17, 2015 Clinton Community School District
Spring Primary Election Available Starting February 2, 2015**

January 29, 2015 – Beloit, WI: Beginning Monday, February 2, 2015, electors registered to vote in the City of Beloit who are located within the Clinton Community School District boundaries may cast an absentee ballot in person for the February 17th Spring Primary Election.

The only contest on the ballot is a primary for the School Board for the Clinton Community School District. Only voters who live in this school district, located in Wards 23, 24, and 25, are eligible to vote in this election.

Electors who are not registered to vote and those who need to change their names and/or addresses must bring proof of residence to register. Please find the acceptable forms of proof of residence on the following page.

Late registration and absentee voting in person will be available starting **Monday, February 2nd through Friday, February 13th** between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the City Clerk's office on the second floor of City Hall. Electors who would like an absentee ballot mailed to them must make the request in writing via email to lemirer@beloitwi.gov; via mail to 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511; or in person at the City Clerk's office.

Photo identification or other proof of identity will **not** be required to obtain an absentee ballot or to obtain a regular ballot on Election Day at the polling place. Sample ballots are available in the Document Center on the City's website www.beloitwi.gov in the Voting and Election Documents folder.

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ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF RESIDENCE

One of the following is required to register to vote in the Clerk's office during the closed registration period or on Election Day at the Polling Place:

- A current and valid Wisconsin driver's license
- A current and valid Wisconsin identification card
- Any other Official ID Card or license issued by a Wisconsin Governmental body
- An ID card with your photo issued by an employer during the normal course of business (not including a business card)
- A real estate tax bill or receipt (for the current year or year before the election)
- A residential lease which is effective for a period that includes Election Day
- A university, college, or technical college identification card (must include photo) together with a fee payment receipt issued to the cardholder by the university, college or technical college dated no earlier than 9 months before the date of the election at which the receipt is presented
- A utility bill for a period starting no earlier than 90 days before Election Day
- A bank statement or current pay check
- A government check or any other official document issued by a unit of government

NOTE: all of the above must contain a current and complete name, including both first and last name; and a current and complete residential address, including numbered street address, if any, and the name of the municipality. If the form has an expiration date, it must be valid on Election Day. **An individual may not register or vote without one of the above forms of proof of residence.**



PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Beloit City Council will hold a **Workshop** on Monday February 2, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the 4th floor City Manager's Conference Room, City Hall, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511. The purpose of the workshop is to review the agenda of the regular 7:00 p.m. City Council meeting.

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Larry N. Arft, City Manager

Dated: January 28, 2015
Rebecca Houseman LeMire
City Clerk
www.beloitwi.gov

** Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information to request this service, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 364-6680, 100 State Street, Beloit WI 53511.



**AGENDA
BELOIT CITY COUNCIL
100 State Street, Beloit WI 53511
City Hall Forum – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 2, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS – none
4. PUBLIC HEARINGS – none
5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
6. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered at this point on the agenda.

- a. Approval of the **Minutes** of the regular meeting of January 20, 2015 (LeMire)
 - b. Application for a **Recreation Path** in Big Hill Park (Christensen)
Refer to Plan Commission
 - c. Application for a **Conditional Use Permit** to allow indoor alcohol sales in a C-2, Neighborhood Commercial District, for the property located at 412 Liberty Avenue (Liberty Mart) (Christensen) Refer to Plan Commission
 - d. Application for **Sidewalk Easements** for the proposed Milwaukee Road Corridor Improvements (Christensen) Refer to Plan Commission
 - e. Resolution awarding **Public Works Contract C15-03**, Concrete Pavement Repair (Boysen)
7. ORDINANCES – none
 8. APPOINTMENTS – none
 9. COUNCILOR ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS
 10. CITY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION – none
 11. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND CITY OFFICERS
 - a. Resolution providing for the Sale of \$760,000 **General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2015B** (Miller)

- b. Initial Resolution Authorizing **General Obligation Bonds** in an amount not to Exceed \$1,950,000 for Street Improvement Projects (Miller)
- c. Initial Resolution Authorizing **General Obligation Bonds** in an amount not to Exceed \$535,000 for Parks and Public Grounds Projects (Miller)
- d. Resolution directing Publication of Notice to Electors Relating to Bond Issues and Providing for the Sale of not to Exceed \$2,485,000 **General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2015C** (Miller)
- e. Resolution supporting the League of Wisconsin Municipalities' **Partnership for Prosperity Legislative Agenda** (Arft)

12. ADJOURNMENT

** Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information to request this service, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 364-6680, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511.

Dated: January 28, 2015
Rebecca Houseman LeMire
City of Beloit City Clerk
www.beloitwi.gov

You can watch this meeting live on Charter PEG digital channel 992. Meetings are rebroadcast during the week of the Council meeting on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.; Thursday at 8:30 a.m.; and Friday at 1:00 p.m.

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League of Wisconsin Municipalities

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Partnership for Prosperity: An Agenda for a Competitive 21st Century Wisconsin

Thriving cities and villages are a key to Wisconsin's long-term economic success. To compete globally, Wisconsin needs to develop quality communities that can attract and retain talent and enterprise and spur job creation. Wisconsin cities and villages provide the core services that businesses and people expect and need from their local governments, including police and fire protection, sewer and water, roads and other transportation infrastructure, garbage collection, recycling, libraries, and parks.

At a time when our state and local resources are diminishing, it is imperative the state receive a strong return on its investment in local services. The state should invest its limited resources where most of the state's economic activity is already occurring and where the most jobs are being created. By doing so, the state is more efficiently targeting its resources to maximize job growth outcomes. The state should focus its support and limited resources for local government on cities and villages because:

- Wisconsin's metropolitan regions already account for 75% of the state's Gross Domestic Product.
- Wisconsin cities and villages are home to:
 - 70 percent of the state's population
 - 87 percent of all manufacturing property
 - 89 percent of all commercial property
- Most of the small businesses created in Wisconsin get their start in cities and villages.
- Cities and villages are where nearly all technology based entrepreneurship and knowledge based economic activity occurs in Wisconsin.

This agenda proposes a commitment of action in partnership between the state and its municipalities to assist communities in providing key services and amenities that contribute to a high quality of life and facilitate Wisconsin's economic growth and job creation. The following proactive legislative agenda is designed to create a new state-local partnership for prosperity to drive the state's economy forward by:

- Helping communities continue to provide quality local services while controlling property taxes.
- Investing in local transportation infrastructure.
- Enhancing and promoting economic development best practices, like the expansion of the historic tax credit that was accomplished last session (2013 Wisconsin Act 62).

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities' Partnership for Prosperity Legislative Agenda for 2015-2016

1. Sustainable Funding for Local Services. Municipalities are responsible for providing the public services necessary for a high quality of life and economic vitality. The delivery of quality services depends on having reliable and sufficient revenues. Wisconsin municipalities receive most of their revenue from two sources: property taxes and state revenue sharing programs. We recommend the following policy changes to ensure financial stability and flexibility for municipalities:

A. REDI for Jobs Plan. Create a new **Regional Economic Development Incentive (REDI)** program to supplement and ultimately replace shared revenue. A version of REDI was originally introduced as 2009 Assembly Bill 833/Senate Bill 532. REDI calls for increasing funding for the shared revenue program annually by the same percentage that the state general fund expenditures grew over the previous budget. Under REDI, the current shared revenue appropriation would continue to be distributed to municipalities in the same manner it has been in recent years. Any new dollars added to the program would be distributed to cities, villages and towns according to the following formula:

Distribute any additional dollars to shared revenue according to the following formula:

- a. 1/3 to be distributed by economic regions based on the percentage growth in **new private sector jobs** created from the previous year.
- b. 2/3 to be distributed statewide on a per capita basis to cities, villages, and towns that levy at least 1 mill. Percentage adjustments would be made to each municipality's population based on an average of the following two factors: per capita property value and per capita adjusted gross income.

B. Allow Levies to Grow by Rate of Inflation. The current state imposed levy limit allows a municipality to increase its levy over the prior year by the percentage increase in equalized value from net new construction. While every community is different, in 2014, the growth in the state's total equalized value from net new construction was 1.12%. Levy limits this strict are unsustainable and are negatively impacting the ability of municipalities to provide the services necessary for economic development and job growth. The minimum allowable annual growth in a community's tax levy should be at least the rate of inflation.

C. Modify New Construction Adjustment for Levy Limits. A municipality's current maximum allowable levy is the percentage increase in equalized value from *net* new construction. Net new construction is new construction minus buildings demolished. A limit based on net new construction negatively impacts older urban areas engaged in redevelopment projects. The maximum allowable levy should be the percentage change in the municipality's equalized value due to new construction, not *net* new construction.

D. Create Economic Development Exemption from Levy Limits. Exempt from levy limits the amount municipalities spend on economic development.

Define "economic development" to include development incentives and grants, recruitment and retention efforts, community branding and marketing, urban service area extensions, land acquisition, brownfields clean-up, infrastructure improvements necessary for particular developments, and salaries for staff engaged in economic development.

E. Create an Incentive for Closing TIDs Early by Allowing Municipalities to treat more of the growth in value within a terminated TID as Net New Construction for Levy Limit Purposes. When a TIF district terminates, allow up to 85 percent of the value increment of the former district to be treated as net new construction and added to the municipality's allowable levy. Current law allows up to 50 percent of the value increment to be added to the allowable levy.

F. Encourage Municipalities to hold down spending by expanding the Expenditure Restraint Program. To receive payments under the Expenditure Restraint Program (ERP), municipalities must limit the year-to-year growth in their budgets to a percentage equal to CPI plus 60% of the percentage change in the municipality's equalized value due to net new construction. To receive aid, a municipality must also have a municipal purpose tax rate in excess of five mills.

To be eligible for a 2014 payment, municipalities had to limit their 2013 general fund increases to 2.4% plus 60% of the percentage change in the municipality's equalized value due to net new construction. There are over 1,800 cities, villages and towns in Wisconsin. Out of the 454 municipalities that had tax rates exceeding 5 mills and were potentially eligible for a 2014 payment, only 359 met the budget test. The other 95 municipalities either did not meet the test or did not submit budget worksheets to DOR in a timely manner.

We recommend increasing funding for this successful program, which has been frozen at \$58 million since 2003. Increased funding will create more of a financial incentive for eligible communities to strive to meet the program's spending limits and qualify for ERP dollars. We also recommend that a portion of any funding increase be set aside in a separate pot as a bonus payment available only to those communities that limit their general fund increases a certain percentage (e.g., 5%) below the current budget test of CPI plus 60% of net new construction.

2. Transportation Funding. The State's Transportation Fund must be adequately funded to build and maintain a modern transportation system that works seamlessly to move commerce and people. A safe,

efficient and well-maintained transportation system, including transit, is critical to Wisconsin's economic prosperity and quality of life. Wisconsin needs to reverse its chronic underfunding of our state and local transportation systems.

According to the most recent (2012) figures available, the condition of Wisconsin's highway system is below average. The pavement on less than half of it is rated "good" based on smoothness. Thirty-five states had highways in better condition, including three neighboring states. The situation is significantly worse in the state's 15 urbanized areas. There, only 15% of the highway system is rated good; just over half is considered "acceptable." (Source: *Filling the Potholes: Addressing Local Transportation Funding in Wisconsin*; A Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance Study for the Local Government Institute.)

If Wisconsin is to compete successfully with other states for jobs and workers over the next 30 years, it will need high-quality infrastructure. That means the system of state and Interstate highways needs to be modern and efficient for producers looking to deliver their goods to consumers. It also means local transportation infrastructure must be able to move workers efficiently from where they live to where jobs are.

Yet, the percentage of local transportation related costs that the state reimburses has steadily declined, shifting ever more of the cost onto property taxpayers. When the current general transportation aid formula was established in 1988, cities and villages received payments covering 24 percent of their costs. Today, general transportation aid payments equal on average about 13 percent of municipal costs.

To counter this unsustainable trend we propose the following recommendations:

- A. **Increase funding for GTA.** At a minimum, restore the \$30 million cut that was made to the share of cost component of the program in the 2011-2012 state budget.
- B. **Modify GTA Distribution Formula.** The current method of distributing GTA is based on 20th century goals of making sure dairy and other farm products get to market. Such an exclusive focus no longer makes sense if Wisconsin is to succeed in today's global economy. The formula should be modified to direct more resources to where most job creation and economic activity takes place, which is in Wisconsin cities and villages. GTA currently covers nearly 40% of towns' reported costs and only 13% of municipal transportation related costs. **The proposed solution:** Eliminate the rate per-mile payment option and distribute GTA to all local governments, including towns, exclusively on a share of cost basis.
- C. **Realign Distribution of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) dollars to Prioritize Spending in Cities and Villages, where 70% of state's population resides and most of the state's economic activity occurs.** The state should reprioritize how it distributes limited LRIP dollars to better reflect where the state's population lives and works. LRIP was established in 1991 to assist local governments in improving seriously deteriorating local streets and roads. Total funding for the program is \$59 million. LRIP has an entitlement and a discretionary component.

The \$27 million **discretionary component** is currently distributed as follows: 43% to counties; 48% to towns; and 8.3% to municipalities. A portion of the program is also earmarked for certain specific projects.

The \$32 million **entitlement program** is currently distributed as follows: 43% to counties; and 28.5% to municipalities; and 28.5% to towns.

A higher percentage of LRIP dollars should be allocated to projects in cities and villages where the economic payoff will be greater and the investment is more likely to stimulate additional economic opportunities and job creation.

D. **Enact Regional Transportation Authority Enabling Legislation** similar to 2009 Assembly Bill 282/Senate Bill 205, authorizing local governments to create RTAs with ability to levy a sales tax to raise sufficient revenue to finance both road and transit capital costs and operations.



CITY HALL • 100 STATE STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA
Beloit City Plan Commission
Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM
The Forum
Beloit City Hall, First Floor
100 State Street, Beloit

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 21, 2015 Meeting**
3. **Conditional Use Permit - 412 Liberty Avenue - Liberty Mart**
Public hearing, review and consideration of Conditional Use Permit to allow indoor alcohol sales in a C-2, Neighborhood Commercial District, for the property located at 412 Liberty Avenue
4. **Relocation Order for Easements - Milwaukee Road Corridor Improvements**
Review and consideration of a Relocation Order for a variety of permanent and temporary easements to be established throughout the Milwaukee Road Corridor
5. **Status Report on Prior Plan Commission Items**
6. **Adjournment**

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Gail Riddle in the Planning Office at 364-6700 **no later than 4:00 PM the day before the meeting.**

Notice Mailed: January 30, 2015

Approved: Julie Christensen, Community
Development Director

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**Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information to request this service, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 364-6680, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511