



WISCONSIN TOWNS  
ASSOCIATION

Empowering Town Officials

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Dear Legislators:

This is the third and final mailing of the 20/21 fact sheets that ask the question about whether town businesses and citizens have earned a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy or if they will be stuck with 20<sup>th</sup> century infrastructure? We hope the previous two installments helped increase understanding of town road conditions (e.g., 74% require significant maintenance investment) and how inflation has decreased real investment (e.g., the inflation adjusted rate per mile GTA is \$1,144 less than in 2003).

The enclosed fact sheets look at the current maintenance cycle relative to the recommended cycle, as well as how much is needed to actually achieve simply a 20<sup>th</sup> century town road system. Currently, towns reconstruct a road on average every 371 years. And, they perform crack filling, the most fundamental maintenance procedure, every 16.1 years, when it should be 3. Unfortunately, inability to achieve the recommended maintenance intervals decreases the life of the road.

In order to build and maintain a 20<sup>th</sup> century town road system that involves reconstructing a road every 70 years, once in a lifetime, then an additional \$332 million annually is needed. Keep in mind, this investment level is only for a 20<sup>th</sup> century system of roads that are not designed for 21<sup>st</sup> century weights.

This is simply unachievable in the short term. And, honestly even in the long term, perhaps policy makers will have to tell some property owners and businesses that they can't have a good road. But, if local and state lawmakers want to avoid conveying that message, and the target is to achieve a 70 year cycle by 2040, then after adjusting for historical construction inflation of 4.5%, an additional \$40 million investment must be added annually (\$80 million per biennium) for the next 20 years. If only 2.15% inflation is applied, recent CPI, then the need decreases to \$25 million added annually.

Have town businesses and citizens earned a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy? Or, will they be stuck with 20<sup>th</sup> century infrastructure?

Sincerely,

Mike Koles

WTA Executive Director

CC: Governor Evers