

## CHAPTER 7: TRANSPORTATION

### INTRODUCTION

A safe, effective, and efficient transportation system can provide convenient transportation for residents and act as a catalyst for economic development in the Town of Eldorado. Assessing the Town's transportation system requires much more than just looking at road systems—pedestrian, bicyclist, transit, rail, and air transportation systems all play an important part in providing transportation for goods and people.

Wisconsin's Smart Growth Legislation requires that the transportation element consist of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs that guide the development of various transportation modes. These modes include: highways, transit, transportation for those with disabilities, bicycles, pedestrian, railroads, air transportation, trucking, and water. This element serves to assess the current situation of these transportation modes, determine what the Town wants them to become in the future, and devise ways to get there. This chapter, along with Appendix E: Transportation Inventory, and Chapter 2: Plan Framework and Implementation address these requirements.

### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS AND NARRATIVE

Below is a summary of the key transportation points derived from the data collection and analysis and a brief narrative of what it means in terms of developing the future land use plan policies and strategies.

#### Streets and Highways

##### The Facts:

- In total, there are approximately 87 miles of rural functionally classified roads in the Town. 56 miles or about 65 percent of the roads are local Town roads.
- About 8 percent of the local roads (4 miles) are in poor or very poor condition, meaning they could need structural improvements and leveling or total reconstruction. An additional 12 miles or about 22 percent are in fair condition, meaning they could need structural improvements and leveling or preservation treatments such as seal coating.

##### What it Means:

Roads support all uses of land and can be expensive to build and maintain. Budgeting issues for road maintenance and construction have plagued Wisconsin communities (and the State) for many years and will likely continue to do so during the planning period. The Town should utilize a capital improvement plan to identify capital projects and/or equipment purchases and provide a means for implementing projects and purchases. Since revenues are limited, the Town should consider additional strategies which minimize road construction and maintenance.

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## Public Transportation

### **The Facts:**

- There is currently no fixed route transit service in or to the Town of Eldorado and the surrounding area.
- Disabled and senior citizens (60 years and older) can utilize services provided by Fond du Lac County's Senior Services Department. However these services are available for medical appointments only.

### **What it Means:**

As the population ages, demand for rural public transportation may increase as the population become less mobile. People's ability to access these services may determine their capacity to "age in place" and remain in the community.

## Non-Motorized Transportation

### **The Facts:**

- One pedestrian/ bicycle facility is found within the Town of Eldorado: the Mascoutin Valley State Trail.
- Sidewalks are scheduled to be constructed along CTH C, in the unincorporated community of Eldorado, in the coming years.

### **What it Means:**

Walking and bicycling are emerging as an important means of exercise and residents are looking for safe locations to walk and bike. In addition, when given the option, some people choose to bike or walk to work or to access shopping and services. Therefore the ability to safely walk and bike may be important in order to attract a younger, more mobile population.

## POTENTIAL FRAMING CONCEPTS

These are derived from the data analysis and discussions throughout the process. Framing Concepts provide more detailed discussion of key issues that were identified as well as big ideas expressed in relation to the goals. These may include maps that show where in the community particular policies apply, detailed description of specific strategic directions, specific recommendations as well as diagrams and photo imagery to help convey specific points. The following Framing Concepts are suggested for moving forward in the process:

1. Mobility for an Aging Population
2. Planning for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
  - Downtown walking
3. Creating a Walkable Community
  - Village area (could possibly be combined with above concept)
4. ~~Planning/budgeting for local roads (capital improvement planning)~~