

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

DTIM-BPED25

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on DTIM-BPED25, Wisconsin Administrative Code Trans-RR, a proposed guidance document.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/dot/guidance-docs?guidDocId=DTIM-BPED25>

2. Mailing written comments to:

Division of Transportation Investment Management  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7913  
Madison, WI 53707-7913

### **WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at [wisconsin.dot.gov](https://wisconsin.dot.gov) to allow for ongoing comment.

### **AGENCY CONTACT**

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## State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

# Create and care for the Rustic Roads

Overview

Create and care for the  
Rustic Roads

Application information

Missing or damaged  
signs

The Wisconsin Legislature established the Rustic Roads program in 1973 to help citizens and local units of government preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled country roads.

Unique brown and yellow signs mark the routes of all officially-designated Rustic Roads. These routes provide bikers, hikers, and motorists an opportunity to leisurely travel through some of Wisconsin's scenic countryside. For motorcyclists Wisconsin offers a special [Rustic Roads motorcycle award program](#).

The goals of the Rustic Road program are:

- to identify and preserve in a natural and essentially undisturbed condition certain designated roads having unusual or outstanding natural beauty, by virtue of native vegetation along with natural or man-made features associated with the road.
- to provide a linear park-like system for vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian travel for quiet and leisurely enjoyment by local residents and the general public alike.
- to maintain and administer these roads to provide safe public travel, yet preserve the rustic and scenic qualities through use of appropriate maintenance and design standards, and encouragement of zoning for land use compatibility, utility regulations and billboard control.

Nominate a new Rustic Road

As you drive, hike or bike the Wisconsin countryside, you may discover a road you think should be included in the Rustic Roads program. To qualify for the Rustic Road program, a road must:

- have outstanding natural features along its borders such as rugged terrain, native vegetation, native wildlife, or include open areas with agricultural vistas which singly or in combination uniquely set this road apart from other roads.
- be a lightly traveled local access road, one which serves the adjacent property owners and those wishing to travel by auto, bicycle, or hiking for purposes of recreational enjoyment of its rustic features.
- not be scheduled nor anticipated for major improvements which would change its rustic characteristics.
- should have, preferably, a minimum length of 2 miles and, where feasible, should provide a completed closure or loop, or connect to major highways at both ends of the route.

A Rustic Road may be dirt, gravel or paved; it may be of varying widths. It may also have bicycle or hiking paths adjacent to or incorporated in the roadway area.

The maximum speed limit on a Rustic Road has been established by law at 45 mph. A speed limit as low as 30 mph may be established by the local governing authority.

## The designation process

The nomination process begins with local support. There are two ways to get started.

1. Build that support by talking first to local residents, government officials, and civic and environmental groups. Using the [petition form](#), obtain signatures from resident landowners along the road or in the county or municipality in which the road lies. These can be presented to the county highway committee or governing body of the municipality to obtain a supporting resolution.
2. The process can also be initiated by resolution of the governing body. The local governing body may hold a public hearing on the proposed Rustic Road designation.

Upon approval of the resolution, the local governing body submits the [application materials](#) to request approval from the Rustic Roads Board. Application materials should include photos of the road, the description form, and a copy of the signed resolution. The Rustic Roads Board reviews the application and has final approval authority over the designation. Its approval makes the designation official.

## The Rustic Roads Board

The Rustic Roads Board is responsible for assisting in the establishment of the Rustic Roads system by considering local governments' applications for Rustic Road designation and exercising final approval authority for Rustic Road

designation through a formal vote.

The Spring 2019 Rustic Roads Board Meeting is scheduled for:

Monday, May 13, 2019 - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Hill Farms State Office Building, Room S159  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, Wisconsin

Per statute, the Rustic Roads Board is composed of four members appointed directly by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Secretary, four members nominated through Wisconsin Counties Association for Secretary approval and the two chairs from the legislative standing committees on transportation. Appointees serve staggered four year terms.

- Marion Flood, Chair (Stevens Point)
- Daniel Fedderly, Vice Chair (Boyceville)
- Ted Cushing (Hazelhurst)
- Barbara Fleisner LaMue (Green Bay)
- Reed Hall (Madison)
- Marty Krueger (Reedsburg)
- Representative Bob Kulp, 69th Assembly District
- Alan Lorenz (La Crosse)
- Senator Jerry Petrowski, 29th Senate District
- Thomas Solheim (Madison)

Acknowledgement: The Rustic Roads Board mourns the passing of Raymond DeHahn, Board Member 2001 – 2018. We will all miss his passion for preserving these roads that allow all travelers to experience the beauty of Wisconsin's scenic countryside.

For questions on the application process or program content, contact:

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