



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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### WISCONSIN'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

411 South, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin

October 7, 2004  
9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

[The following is a summary of the October 7, 2004 meeting of the Special Committee on Wisconsin's Transportation Network Infrastructure. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/2004studies.htm>.]

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#### Call to Order and Roll Call

Senator Kanavas, Chair, called the meeting to order. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Ted Kanavas, Chair; Sens. Joe Leibham and Fred Risser; Reps. Dan LeMahieu, Jeff Stone, John Townsend, and Josh Zepnick; and Public Members Geoff Crowley, George Grossardt, Paul Olsen, Jerome Thiele, Peter Thillman, and Tom Walker.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT Rep. Karl Van Roy; and Public Members Bob Cook and John Kreilkamp.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Dan Schmidt, Senior Analyst; and Kelly Mautz, Support Staff.

APPEARANCES: Terry C. Anderson, Director, Legislative Council Staff; Aaron Olver, Executive Assistant, Department of Commerce; Mark Wolfgram, Administrator, Division of Transportation Investment Management, Dave Greene, Director, Bureau of Aeronautics, Division of Transportation Infrastructure Development, and Ron Adams, Director, Bureau of Rails and Harbors, Division of Transportation Infrastructure Development.

## **Opening Remarks**

**Terry C. Anderson**, Director of the Legislative Council, welcomed the committee and introduced the Legislative Council staff members assigned to work with the committee. He noted that the committee's meetings are recorded and available on the Internet.

## **Introduction of Committee Members**

Senator Kanavas welcomed all members to the committee and thanked them for their willingness to serve. The members then briefly introduced themselves.

## **Invited Speakers**

**Aaron Olver, Executive Assistant for the Wisconsin Department of Commerce**, spoke on the importance of transportation in state and local economic development. He summarized the "Grow Wisconsin" program and explained that transportation is a crucial part of this and any other economic development project. He encouraged the committee to consider streamlined siting of infrastructure and other intermodal issues when studying the state infrastructure network.

**Mark Wolfgram, Administrator for the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Division of Investment Management**, presented a summary of Wisconsin's current transportation infrastructure use and gave projections for future use. He noted that the current use of state highways for trucking already meets the expected use for 2020 and will soon, if it does not already, exceed the expected use for the future plan. Mr. Wolfgram concluded by urging the committee to consider the importance of continued planning and wise infrastructure investment.

**Dave Greene, Director of the DOT's Bureau of Aeronautics**, presented a general overview of the status of aviation in Wisconsin. He stressed cooperation with the functional users of airports in Wisconsin and acknowledged that more state and local spending on airport infrastructure results in greater federal funding for state and local projects.

**Ron Adams, Director of the DOT's Bureau of Rails and Harbors**, summarized the status of state freight and passenger rail systems and the state harbor system. He noted that the amount of railroad track in Wisconsin is in decline, even though Wisconsin has the third highest use of passenger train service of all regions in the United States. In addition, Mr. Adams described the Wisconsin harbor system on the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

## **Discussion of Committee Assignment**

The committee held general discussion on the topic of transportation infrastructure planning in Wisconsin. The members generally agreed that the committee should have three hearings:

- One on airports;
- One on rail; and
- One on seaports/harbors.

The committee also agreed that the meetings should take place in the order listed above. Finally, the members agreed that intermodal transportation should be the area of emphasis for the committee.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business brought before the committee.

### **Plans for Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Special Committee will be held on *Wednesday, October 20, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 411 South, State Capitol, Madison.*

### **Description of Material Distributed**

Dan Schmidt briefly described the materials that were mailed to the committee prior to the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

DWS:ksm