

CHAPTER 4: TRANSPORTATION



A safe, efficient, and well-designed transportation system can provide convenient transportation and economic benefits for the residents of the City and the surrounding area. The City's transportation system is much more than simply looking at the road system. An important part of ensuring the transportation needs of the community are met is the assessment of the overall network, which includes roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, rail, water, air, and transit.

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, and transportation for those with various disabilities, bicycles, pedestrians, railroads, air transportation, trucking and water. This chapter serves to assess the current status of these transportation modes, determine what the City desires them to become in the future, and devise ways to implement them.

To further explore transportation options, a bicycle and pedestrian plan was also created (appendix x).

ROADWAYS

The City of Shawano is served by State Highways 29, 22, 47 and 55, and a number of county trunk highways, all of which link the City with the region's major cities. These links channel commuter flows and provide excellent access for residents.

State trunk highways serve as arterial roadways, providing functions similar to those of principal arterials (e.g. U.S. highways 45 and 41), but with generally less traffic, slower speeds, and more frequent stops. State highways in the City include 22 and 47/55. Highway 22 serves as the City's primary east/west transportation corridor. This road traverses the City's downtown and is the location for the majority of the City's commercial development. State Highway 47/55 runs north/south on the eastern edge of the City, cutting through the industrial park. According to the

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), which records average daily traffic volumes (number of vehicles) for major State roadways, traffic volume on Highway 22, between County Highway HHH and S. Waukechon Street, decreased 1 percent from 2015 to 2018, and on Highway 22, between Division Street and Center Street in downtown Shawano, traffic volumes decreased nearly 8 percent.

Highway 29 bypasses the City to the south and serves as Shawano County's primary east-west traffic arterial. This four-lane limited access highway is designed to keep traffic flowing smoothly across the entire State. The highway was upgraded from 1998 to 1999 as part of a corridor project that ran from Green Bay to Chippewa Falls. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), traffic on Highway 29, east of the City, increased 8 percent from 2015 to 2018.

WisDOT has developed a corridor plan to preserve extra right-of-way along 61 miles of Highway 29 to address future expansion needs. These future expansion plans have been approved and recorded but have no funding programmed for future construction. **Facilities associated with this project are shown in Map x.** City roads serve local residents, commercial and industrial areas, and are maintained by the City.

Functional Class

Throughout Wisconsin, all local, County, State and federal transportation routes are classified in categories under the "Roadway Functional Classification" system. As identified by WisDOT, the functional classification system classifies roads and highways according to the character of service they offer, ranging from rapid through access to local land access. The purpose of functional classification is to enhance overall travel efficiency and accommodate traffic patterns and land uses by designing streets to the standards suggested by their functional class. The three main urban roadway functional classes include: Principal Arterials that provide primary access to and through an area (WIS 47/55 and WIS 22), Minor Arterials serve important economic activity centers, have moderate ADT, and serve intercommunity trip length desires interconnecting and augmenting the principal arterial system. (CTH HHH, MMM, B, Lieg Avenue, and Waukechon Avenue). Collectors that disperse traffic within an area (CTH M, MM, B and Richmond Street) Local streets that provide access to individual properties.

After the 2010 U.S. Census, the Shawano and Cecil area was designated a federal urban area over 10,000 population. The City of Shawano is eligible for Urban Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding on the facilities that are functionally classified as collectors or higher.

Facilities that are functionally classified in the urban area are shown in Map x.???

Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER)

Every two years, all jurisdictions in the State of Wisconsin are required to rate the condition of their local roads and submit the information to WisDOT. This information is tied to the amount of General Transportation Aids (GTA) funding that the City of Shawano receives on a yearly basis.

The surface condition rating of each roadway is updated in the state's computer database known as the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR). This database is based off of the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) road rating method. The PASER system was developed and improved in recent years by the Transportation Information Center (TIC) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in cooperation with WisDOT. Generally, PASER uses visual assessments to rate paved roadway surfaces on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being a road that needs to be reconstructed and 10 being a brand new roadway.¹ This inventory provides the basis for developing a planned maintenance and reconstruction program and helps municipalities track necessary improvements. Prompt maintenance can significantly reduce long term costs for road repair and improvement. Table 8-2 provides a breakdown of the PASER ratings, conditions and maintenance needs.

Table 8-2: PASER Ratings and Maintenance Needs

Rating	Condition	Needs
9 & 10	Excellent	None
8	Very Good	Little Maintenance
7	Good	Routine Maintenance, Crack Filling
6	Good	Sealcoat
5	Fair	Sealcoat or Nonstructural Overlay
4	Fair	Structural Improvement – recycling or overlay
3	Poor	Structural improvement – patching & overlay or recycling
2	Very Poor	Reconstruction with extensive base repair
1	Failed	Total reconstruction

Source: Transportation Information Center, UW-Madison

¹ Transportation Information Center. 2002. PASER Manuals Asphalt.

Table 8-3 provides a summary of the total miles of local and county roads in the City of Shawano by PASER rating. **Map x-x** provides a visual of the PASER data.² **There are approximately 58 miles of PASER rated roads in the City, which include both the local and county roads within the city.**³ According to PASER:

Table x-x: Total Miles of Local and County Roads within City by PASER Rating, 2019

Rating	Mileage	Percent
1	0.43	1.0%
2	0.94	1.6%
3	3.52	6.0%
4	2.45	4.1%
5	4.21	7.2%
6	5.85	10.0%
7	9.09	15.5%
8	16.96	18.2%
9	9.69	16.6%
10	5.21	8.9%
County Jurisdiction	1.91	3.2%
Total	58.35	100.0%

Source: WISLR 2019 City of Shawano

BRIDGES

There are five state-maintained bridges in and immediately around the City of Shawano, located on Highway 22, County Highway M, County Highway MMM, and County Highway HHH, and 47/55. The state maintains condition reports for bridges.

According to 2019 WisDOT data for the North Central Region, 57.19% of bridges are in good condition, 39.7% are in fair condition, and 3.11% are in poor condition for this 18-county region. It should be noted that even through bridges may be rated to be in poor condition, they are open and safe to traffic; however, they may need "corrective action to ensure continued operation."⁴

Commented [KB1]: Can get conditions by county?

AIRPORTS

² PASER road mileage is rated for each lane of traffic; mileage will differ from functional class mileage.

³ WISLR 2019. Wisconsin System for Local Roads. Note: State and federal roads are included in the 58 miles, but are not rated in Table 8-3 or on Map 8-2.

⁴ https://wisconsin.gov/Documents/about-wisdot/performance/mapss/perf-report.pdf#Preservation_State_Bridge_Condition

The Shawano Municipal Airport has two paved runways in good condition; the main runway is 3,900 feet long and the smaller runway is 2,225 feet long. The airport is open to the public and mainly accommodates local air traffic. Located on the southwest shore of Shawano Lake, the airport also acts as a seaplane base, which is the largest in the Midwest. Austin Straubel International in the City of Green Bay, Wittman Regional Airport in the City of Oshkosh, General Mitchell International Airport in the City of Milwaukee, Outagamie County Airport in Appleton, and the Stevens Point Airport in the City of Stevens Point also serve the region.

WATER AND TRUCK

There is no waterborne freight movement in the County, and most freight shipments in the City of Shawano are transported by truck. State Highway 29 is the most common route for semi-truck traffic.

RAIL

The City of Shawano has the only active rail line in the County. This line runs from the Fox River Valley north to the City of Shawano. The line is owned by Canadian National. Canadian National is the parent company of Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range, Wisconsin Central Limited, and the Sault St. Marie Railroad. This line ships pulp and paper products, and bulk cargo.

MULTIMODAL NETWORK

The following section explores bicycle and pedestrian connections and transit options for community members. To complete the roadway network, it is important to consider travel opportunities for community members who do not drive, do not have access to a vehicle, or are looking for transportation options beyond the use of a personal vehicle.

Trails

The Mountain Bay State Trail was built along the former Chicago and Northwestern rail lines and is maintained by Friends of the Mountain Bay Trail and the three counties it runs through: Marathon County, Shawano County, and Brown County. It is named after the two geological features at the beginning and end of the trail, Rib Mountain in Marathon County and Green Bay in Brown County. Of the total 83-mile-long trail, 58 miles are located within Shawano County and about 4 of those miles are within the City of Shawano. Entering into the City through the northeastern corner, the Trail runs through the heart of the City before continuing southwest. The portion of the Trail from County Highway HHH on the east to the bridge over the Wolf River on the west are maintained by the City. The Trail offers year-round recreational opportunities for bicyclists, hikers and snowmobilers. Sturgeon Park offers a scenic trail along the Wolf River that provides an ideal location for watching the annual sturgeon run.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Network

Biking and walking are growing recreational activities for both residents and visitors within the City of Shawano. Trails, as discussed in the previous section, offer residents and visitors an opportunity to travel and recreate through off-road connections; however, in many communities, well-planned amenities like sidewalks and bike lanes serve as dedicated on-road facilities to connect travelers to their final destinations. Throughout the City of Shawano, there is a total of about 25 miles of sidewalk and there are no dedicated bike lanes or bike sharrows.

Continuing to grow the existing network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the City will add opportunities for residents to explore the City and gain a better appreciation.

Safe Routes to School

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program engages and empowers schools and communities to foster healthy lifestyles through environmental changes and safe walking and bicycling. By working to make it safer and more appealing for students grades K–8th to walk and bike to school, the Regional SRTS Program is continually making strides to improve childhood health, reduce traffic congestion and pollution, and create more livable communities. Shawano Schools have participated in the SRTS program since it started in 2009. Currently, there are six schools participating in the program: Hillcrest Primary School, Olga Brenner Intermediate School, Shawano Community Middle School, Sacred Heart Catholic School, LEADS Primary Charter School, and St. James Lutheran Grade School. In 2011, local SRTS Action Plans were created for Shawano Community Middle School and Olga Brenner Intermediate School. In 2012, a local SRTS Action Plan was created for Hillcrest Primary School. Shawano Schools have created a sustainable SRTS program that has strong participation in walking and biking events and programs.

Transit (fixed, special, paratransit)

Paratransit is specialized transit service to specific segments of the population that requires more accessible vehicles and flexible routing. Shawano County has several paratransit providers that serve the elderly and disabled: Volunteer Driver Escort, Mini-bus service and taxi ticket discounts. The mini-bus is a wheel chair accessible, flexible fixed-route service that is provided in Shawano County (contracted through Menominee Department of Transit Services for bus service), picking up residents in different areas of the County during the week, with trips into the City of Shawano, and occasionally to larger shopping areas in Appleton or Green Bay (see Shawano County Human Services Aging Unit website for trip details). Menominee Regional Public Transit also provides taxi service in the City. In the City of Shawano, there is a weekday fixed-route transit service that provides service to a number of community services, including to the hospital and retail.

Cabs/Taxi and Other On-demand Transportation

The nature of on-demand transport is that it is flexible and designed to meet the needs of the individual rider. They may be standalone services or complement existing services to fill in gaps. Shawano County has a number of on-demand services. Table x outlines the following fixed-route and on-demand transportation providers in Shawano County.

Table X.X: Transportation Providers in Shawano County

Shawano County Specialized Transportation Provider Inventory				
Agency Name	Address	Agency Phone	Contact Person	Email
<u>Veteran's Service Office</u>	<u>311 N Main St, Shawano, WI 54166</u>	<u>(715) 526-9183</u>	<u>Nick Benzinger</u>	<u>vetnicho@co.shawano.wi.us</u>
<u>Community Alternatives</u>	<u>503 S Main St, Shawano, WI 54166</u>	<u>(715) 526-5570</u>	<u>Julie Vanderbilt</u>	<u>jvanderbilt@newcommunityalternatives.com</u>
<u>Shawano County Aging Unit</u>	<u>607 E Elizabeth St, Shawano, WI 54166</u>	<u>(715) 526-4700</u>	<u>Lynnae Zahringer</u>	<u>lynnae.zahringer@co.shawano.wi.us</u>
<u>KAP Taxi</u>	<u>402 S Sawyer St, Shawano, WI 54166</u>	<u>(715) 524-4040</u>	<u>Keith Plantz</u>	<u>kaptrans@charter.net</u>
<u>Koepkens</u>	<u>217 Industrial Dr, Clintonville, WI 54929</u>	<u>(715) 823-5711</u>	<u>any staff</u>	<u>dkoepken@kmedtran.com</u>
<u>Menominee Regional Public Transit</u>	<u>PO Box 910, Keshena, WI 54135</u>	<u>(715) 799-5100</u>	<u>Gary Pyawasay</u>	<u>gpyawasay@mitw.org</u>
<u>Shawano City Taxi</u>	<u>318 W Decker St Viroqua, WI 54665</u>	<u>(608)-637-2599</u>	<u>Justin Running, Vice President</u>	<u>admin@runninginc.net</u>
<u>Kobussen Bus</u>	<u>1208 E Green Bay St,</u>	<u>(715) 280-3001</u>		-

Plan Name (same as cover title)
 Chapter #/Title (if required)

	<u>Shawano, WI 54166</u>			
<u>Shawano Ambulance Service</u>	<u>220 N Main St. Shawano, WI 54166</u>	<u>(715) 524- 2036</u>	<u>Pat Trinko</u>	ptrinko@shawanoambulance.com

STATE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

State and regional transportation plans may serve as resources for transportation-based planning. Below is a list of transportation plans, with a complete list in **Appendix x**.

- Connections 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (as of plan adoption, Connection 2050, the update to Connections 2030, was being undertaken by the State of Wisconsin)
- Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2030
- Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030
- Wisconsin State Freight Plan
- Wisconsin State Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020
- Shawano County Human Resources-Public Transportation Coordinated Plan **(year)**