

4. Transportation

The efficient movement of people and goods is the goal of transportation planning. To provide and maintain an efficient transportation system social, economic, and environmental concerns all need to be considered. To begin to understand these concerns the existing transportation system needs to be understood. This section of this report inventories all the various modes of transportation that exist in the Town or that are readily available to Town residents and businesses.



Public Road Inventory

The Town of Medary participates in the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program. The WISLR program maintains a complete listing of public roads in the Town of Medary by jurisdiction, classification and number of miles. An inventory of Town of Medary roads is found on pages 4-5 and 4-6.

Public roads are classified as arterial, collector and local based on functionality. Arterials provide intra-community links and interconnect urban arterial systems and connections to rural collectors. Collector roads provide traffic circulation in residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas. Collectors also focus traffic from local roads onto the arterial system. Local roads provide the lowest level of mobility and provide direct access to collectors and arterials.

Within the Town of Medary there are 21.30 miles of public road that are under the jurisdiction of either La Crosse County or the Town of Medary. The Town of Medary maintains 17.24 miles of public road, of which .46 miles are classified as collector roads and the remaining road miles are all classified as local roads. La Crosse County has 4.06 miles of public road in the Town of Medary of which .34 miles are classified as arterial roads, 2.59 miles are classified as collector roads and 1.13 miles is classified as local roads.

Traffic Counts

Limited traffic counts are available for the Town of Medary. Table 4.1 illustrates the traffic counts for the years of 1990, 1996 and 2002 for selected roads in and adjacent to the Town of Medary. As the traffic counts indicate, traffic on the roads serving the Town of Medary have increased over the years. In particular traffic on county roads has nearly doubled in 12 years.



Table 4.1 Town of Medary – Average Daily Traffic Counts

Location	1990	1996	2002	% Chng. 1990-2002
County Road F – Town of Medary	510	650	1,000	96%
County Road O – West of Town of Medary and Town of Barre Town Line	1,130	1,600	2,200	95%
State Highway 16 – West of Town of Medary and Town of Hamilton Town Line	8,120	10,600	12,300	51%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Interstate Highways

Interstate 90 crosses State Highway 16 (east/west) in the City of Onalaska which borders the Town of Medary. I-90 is classified as a Principal Arterial-Interstate and its function is to serve as a high speed large traffic volume expressway.

Highways

State Highway 16 passes through most of the Town of Medary in a geographic north-south orientation. STH 16 is mostly a four-lane non-divided roadway whose function is to serve as an arterial that interconnects the principal traffic generators such as the Valley View Mall, Crossing Meadows, and I-90 suburban area with the central City of La Crosse.

Para Transit

The La Crosse County Department of Aging operates a “minibus” service to La Crosse County residents that are either disabled, 60 years or older, or otherwise unable to utilize conventional transportation means. The Department of Aging contracts with a private operator to provide this service to Town of Medary and County residents. This service can be accessed by residents by calling the La Crosse County Aging Department.

Taxis

Three taxi operators provide taxi service to La Crosse County residents.

Intercity Bus Service

Intercity bus service is provided by the City of La Crosse to the Valley View Mall Area, Crossing Meadows and the Elmwood Business park area. Two routes serve the Valley View Mall Area, Route 1 (Valley View/South Side) and Route 6 (Onalaska Shopper Shuttle). Route 1 travels for a combined length of 30 miles from the south side of La Crosse to Valley View Mall. This route also provides demand-response service to Sherwood Manor, Gundersen Lutheran Onalaska Campus, Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center and Frontage Road. Route 6 travels for 6.3 miles as a circulator through the retail areas of Onalaska. Neither of these routes serve Medary Town residents directly. Jefferson Lines provides daily scheduled bus service to the La Crosse area. The intercity bus terminal is located approximately in the City of La Crosse at 601 St. Andrew Street. The bus line connects to Greyhound’s national service network in Madison and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Freight Rail Service

The Class I Canadian Pacific Railway travels east/west through the Town of Medary. The Canadian Pacific Railway connects the area to Milwaukee and Minneapolis/St. Paul. There are no public railroad grade crossings in Medary. Additional Class I rail companies provide service to the La Crosse County area; the Union Pacific Railroad, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and the Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Line.



Passenger Rail Service

Daily passenger service (AMTRAK) is available in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The AMTRAK Empire Builder Line provides passenger service between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest via Minneapolis/St. Paul. One westbound and one eastbound train stop at the La Crosse terminal daily.

High Speed Passenger Rail Service for the region continues to be a possibility as the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI) has a nine state plan intended to improve passenger rail transportation in the Midwest. The project is in the early stages but the preferred connecting the Twin Cities with Chicago/Milwaukee would go through the City of La Crosse.

Airports

There are no public airports located in the Town of Medary. The La Crosse Municipal Airport is located to the west of the Town of Medary on French Island. The airport is designated as an Air Carrier/Cargo Airport. Airports of this classification are designed to accommodate all aircraft and in some cases wide body jets and military transports. The La Crosse Municipal Airport is one of 10 such airports in Wisconsin.

The airport provides commercial air and freight service. Commercial air service is provided year round by American Eagle, Northwest Airlines, and Skyway Airlines.

Water Transportation

The Town of Medary is not located on a commercial waterway. The nearest water transportation is located at the Port of La Crosse, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Port of La Crosse serves ingoing and outgoing barge traffic on the Mississippi River. It provides water access for freight through public and private terminals. Cargo primarily shipped by barge in the region include liquid bulk cargo (chemicals, petroleum, etc.) and dry bulk cargo (grain, scrap metal, etc.).

Trucking

Truck transportation for hauling consumer goods is an important part of the regional, state and national economy. Through trucking in the Town of Medary primarily takes place on STH 16. Trucking of local goods (non-metallic minerals, agricultural products), for the most part take place on county and town roads. In the spring of each year, road bans are placed on local roads limiting the weight of products hauled due to the weight capacity of local roads during the Spring thaw.

Pedestrian/Bike Trails

The La Crosse River State Bicycle Trail traverses the Town of Medary. The trail is 21.5 miles in total length connecting to the Great River State Trail and the Sparta-Elroy State Trail. A bicycle/snowmobile bridge was built in the early 1990's at Medary Junction to allows bicyclists a safer crossing over the Canadian Pacific railroad tracks.



STATE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

The following transportation plans were reviewed as part of the Town of Medary planning process. The plans were reviewed to insure consistency with other governing jurisdictions with regard to the future transportation improvements.

Translink 21: A Multi-Modal Transportation Plan For Wisconsin's 21st Century -November 1995

The plan develops an overall vision for transportation systems for the State of Wisconsin for a 25 year period. Multi-modal transportation opportunities are stressed in the plan. No specific improvements for the Town of Medary are detailed in the plan. However, grant funding opportunities, local road assessment programs, elderly travel assistance programs that affect local units of government in Wisconsin are described within the plan.

The State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation is in the process of developing a new multi-modal transportation plan "Connections 2030" scheduled to be completed in 2007. The plan will address all forms of transportation: highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit – and ways to make the individual modes work better as an integrated transportation system. Connections 2030 will be a policy-based plan. The policies will be tied to "tiers" of potential financing levels.

Wisconsin State Highway Plan – February 2000

The plan created by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation focuses on improving Wisconsin's State Highway system over the next 20 years. The plan focuses on three areas; traffic movement, safety, and pavement preservation. The plan is updated every six years. The plan does not specify any specific facility improvements within the Town of Medary

Wisconsin DOT Six Year Highway Improvement Program

The plan details all road construction programs to be constructed in the state between 2006 and 2011. A review of the plan indicates there are no projects scheduled for State Highway 16 in the Town of Medary.

Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020 – December 1998

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's "Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020" recommends strategies and actions for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and local governments to take to enhance biking in the State of Wisconsin. The plan explores ways to increase ridership and create more biking trail opportunities. The plan does not specify any projects in the Town of Medary.

The Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020 – March 2002

“The Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020”, developed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation attempts to improve pedestrian travel opportunities in conjunction with public roads. The plan details ways how local governments can encourage pedestrian travel in road planning. There are no specific recommendations in the plan for the Town of Medary.

REGIONAL OR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANS

2030 La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan

The Town of Medary is located in the La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Planning Area (MPO). The MPO is required to prepare a 20-year Transportation Plan. In 2005 the MPO updated its 20-year Transportation Plan which includes long range and short range strategies and actions that lead to an integrated inter-modal transportation system for the planning area. The plan also identifies anticipated projects for the planning area. The plan did not identify any specific projects in the Town of Medary.

Town of Medary Comprehensive Plan 2008-2028, 4. Transportation

State of Wisconsin - Department of Transportation - Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads

City / Village/ Town County Certified Mileage List - (R-03) - January 2008

County of La Crosse (32)

Town of Medary (018)

Road Name	Gross Miles	County Miles	Municipal Miles	County Jurisdiction			Municipal Jurisdiction		
				Arterial	Collector	Local	Arterial	Collector	Local
Baker Rd	0.10		0.10						0.10
Bond Rd	0.35		0.35						0.35
Brookview Heights Rd	0.18		0.18						0.18
Brookview Rd	0.02		0.02						0.02
Cedar Point St	0.12		0.12						0.12
Cottown Wood Dr	0.28		0.28						0.28
Crestwood Ln	0.40		0.40						0.40
CTH B	2.03	2.03		0.34	1.69				
CTH F	0.90	0.90			0.90				
CTH FA	1.13	1.13				1.13			
Deerfield Rd	0.37		0.37						0.37
Esther Dr	0.12		0.12						0.12
Evergreen Trl	0.14		0.14						0.14
French Rd	0.19		0.19						0.19
German Ct	0.09		0.09						0.09
Goodview Pl	0.06		0.06						0.06
Hanks Peak Rd	0.23		0.23						0.23
Harter Dr	0.13		0.13						0.13
Hickory Point Ct	0.25		0.25						0.25
Hidden Springs Rd	0.49		0.49						0.49
Kiel Coulee Rd	1.42		1.42						1.42
Kleinsmith Rd	0.13		0.13						0.13
Kohlmeier Rd	0.06		0.06						0.06
Maple Ln	0.08		0.08						0.08
Meadow Wood Rd	0.76		0.76						0.76
Miller Rd	0.76		0.76						0.76
Old Hickory Rd	0.34		0.34						0.34
Peters Rd	0.69		0.69						0.69
Pierce Rd	0.29		0.29						0.29
Potato Ridge Rd	0.32		0.32						0.32
Pralle Rd	0.19		0.19						0.19
Puent Rd	0.15		0.15						0.15
Quarry Rd	0.05		0.05						0.05
Rim of the City Rd	0.44		0.44						0.44
River Valley Dr	0.46		0.46					0.46	
Scenic Dr	0.64		0.64						0.64
Shady Maple Ridge Rd	0.32		0.32						0.32
Shiftar Rd	0.22		0.22						0.22
Smith Valley Rd	2.52		2.52						2.52
Stone Hill Rd	0.44		0.44						0.44
Stone Hill Rd N	0.55		0.55						0.55
Storandt Rd	0.06		0.06						0.06
Sun Valley Rd	0.36		0.36						0.36
Timber Creek Trl	0.24		0.24						0.24
Timbercrest Dr E	0.21		0.21						0.21
Timbercrest Dr W	0.16		0.16						0.16
TN RD 3	0.30		0.30						0.30
Valley Pl	0.04		0.04						0.04
N Verde Rd	0.21		0.21						0.21
Verde Valley Rd S	0.46		0.46						0.46
Vista Ct	0.16		0.16						0.16
Vista Ct N	0.04		0.04						0.04
Westview Ct	0.22		0.22						0.22
Wolf Ridge Ct	0.43		0.43						0.43
Total Miles	21.30	4.06	17.24	0.34	2.59	1.13	0.00	0.46	16.78

