

CHAPTER III. TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

The Town of Richmond is situated to the immediate west of the City of Shawano. Our location has a direct affect on the population and growth expectations.

The Town of Richmond uses the PASER system to rate the condition of its roads. This information is reported to the state every two (2) years.

The 2019 highway construction budget is \$139,421.82 and the highway maintenance budget is \$100,000. The 2018 Actual Highway Capital Outlay (construction) was \$148,839.00 and the Highway Maintenance Expenditures were \$88,676.00

The Town of Richmond will continue systematic maintenance through crack seal, seal coat, etc., annually. All Town roads are physically inspected by the Town Board every year and current Town practice is to resurface up to 3 miles of Town roads per year.

The Town of Richmond has roads in all the following categories:

A. HIGHWAYS

a. State Highways

State Highway 29 runs east-west through the Town.

b. County Highways

County roads in the Town include:

County A
County M
County MM
County MMM

c. Town Roads

– The Town has 57 miles of Town roads. The more heavily used roads include Oak Avenue, Maple Avenue, Poplar, Broadway, Spruce and Butternut.

B. BRIDGES

The Town has one bridge that it maintains. This is on Maple Avenue going over the Red River. The State of Wisconsin is responsible for the bridge on Maple Avenue that goes over Highway 29.

Shawano County is responsible for the bridge on County Highway A going over the Red River.

C. RAIL SERVICE

There is one rail spur in the Town that serves the Shawano Paper Mill. There is also an abandoned rail bed that runs through the town. This is owned by the Canadian National Railroad.

D. AIR TRANSPORTATION

There is no air transportation in the Town of Richmond. Town residents are served by the Shawano Municipal Airport. The airport has two (2) paved runways. The main runway is 3,900 feet long and the smaller runway is 2,225 feet long. The airport also has a sea plane base on Shawano Lake. Major airlines serve the area from airports in Green Bay, Appleton and Milwaukee.

There are currently no plans to construct an airport in the Town. We do not expect this to change in the next 20 years. Helicopter service is available from area hospitals for emergency services.

E. RECREATIONAL TRAIL

The Mountain Bay Trail runs 83 miles from Green Bay to Wausau and passes through the Town of Richmond. The trail is built on the former Chicago and Northwestern right-of-way. The trail right-of-way is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and is maintained by Shawano County. Only non-motorized use is allowed on the trail other than in winter when snowmobiles use is allowed.

F. PARATRANSIT

Paratransit is an alternate, specialized transit service to specific segments of the population that require more accessible vehicles and flexible routing. Typically vans or min-buses are used to provide paratransit service, but other type of vehicles may also be used, depending on the degree of flexibility needed. Paratransit services can be offered by public transit agencies, community group or non-for-profit organizations or for profit companies.

Shawano County has several paratransit providers who serve the elderly and disabled, including workshop transportation run by Shawano County Department of Community Programs. One type of flexible fixed route service is provided in Shawano County, picking up persons in a different area of the county one day each week, into the City of Shawano, and occasionally to larger shopping areas in Appleton or Green Bay.

Specially equipped buses or vans that are suited to a particular disability do transport children that are disabled to and from school. It is unlikely that the Town of Richmond will provide its own transportation for the disabled within the next twenty years due to cost.

G. TAXI

Two private taxi companies in the City of Shawano also serves the Town of Richmond.

H. PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLES

Walking and Bicycling:

Walking and bicycles are permitted on all the streets, roads and highways in the Town. The back roads of the Town are usually fairly lightly traveled by motor vehicles and, consequently, this is not considered dangerous.

Recognizing the need to minimize conflicts and accidents, we may periodically review pedestrian related issues in the hope of being consistent with the Wisconsin DOT State Pedestrian Policy Plan

I. ATV/UTV Routes

The Town has designated all Town highways as ATV/UTV routes as well as County Highway MM (south from County Highway MMM to Poplar Road.

GOALS

The Town of Richmond will continue to work with the State of Wisconsin on the frontage roads along State Highway 29, which will also include an overpass on Range Line Road over Highway 29.

Work with the state on the County MMM/Highway 29 interchange

Provide an efficient, economical and safe transportation system.

Explore possibility of wider shoulders on heavier traveled roads.

Possible signage for farm machinery and wide equipment on heavily used roads.

OBJECTIVES

Support and maintain a safe and efficient town road system

Promote use of Mountain Bay Trail and work with the county on linkage of trail from Maple Avenue to Shawano.

POLICIES

The Town of Richmond will:

Continue current practice of resurfacing up to 3 miles of Town roads every year.

Keep the Town Highway Ordinance up to date.

SUMMARY

The major goal for the Town of Richmond is to maintain the existing transportation system in a cost-effective manner, annually, with needs determined through an annual road inspection by the Town Board of Supervisors. Because of the high cost of road construction or reconstruction, it is imperative that the Town does its best to preserve what we have.

The biggest asset of the Town is our roads and it is important to protect this investment to fullest extent allowed by state laws.

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