

Chapter 3: TRANSPORTATION

I. Existing Transportation Network

A. Roadways

Arterials:

U.S. Highway 14 runs north and south, near the eastern edge of the town, through the Village of Oregon. The highway connects with the South Beltline in the Madison metropolitan area and south and east to Rock County.

Collectors:

County Trunk Highways CC and A run generally east to west through the town, providing linkages to U.S. Highway 14 to the east, and to State Highway 69 to the west. County Trunk Highways MM and D run north to south, providing connections to State Trunk Highways 92 and 138 and to County Highway M.

B. Transit

The closest fixed-route public transit service to the Town of Oregon is the Madison Metro Route 49 (peak-hour service) in the City of Fitchburg, approximately 4.1 miles north of the Oregon-Fitchburg line.

Park and Ride lots in Verona (2565 Old PB, approximately 11 miles from the town hall) and Madison ("Dutch Mill lot," U.S. Highways 12, 18 & 51, approximately 15 miles from the town hall) provide free parking, with connections to the Madison Metro transit system.

C. Taxis and Ride Hail Services

A number of commercial taxi and ride-hail services provide service to portions of the Town of Oregon and the Madison metropolitan area.

D. Carpool and Vanpool Services

The Madison Area Transportation Board operates [RIDESHARE, etc.](#), an online ride-matching service to connect commuters with carpooling and vanpool opportunities. The service area includes much of the Dane County / Madison Metropolitan area, including the Town of Oregon.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration operates a [vanpool system](#) for commuters (including both state and non-state employees) traveling to and from the downtown Madison area.

E. Specialized Transportation Services

Transportation for seniors is available through the [Oregon Area Senior Center](#). Transportation for shopping is available Thursdays to Oregon and Tuesdays to Stoughton, and the first Wednesday of every month to Madison. Rides for seniors to doctor/dental appointments are available through [RSVP of Dane County Driver Services Program](#).

The [Dane County Department of Human Services](#) provides individual and group transportation services which enable seniors and people with disabilities and to access their communities and needed services. Transportation assistance may also be provided for low-income families or persons with unusual medical transportation expenses.

The Madison Area Transportation Board operates a [number of commuter programs](#) that provide a ride home from work in an emergency to regular carpool, vanpool, mass transit and bicycle commuters.

F. Bicycles and Pedestrians

A portion of the Badger State Trail, which runs from Madison to the Illinois border, crosses through the Northwest ¼ of Section 6, near the intersection of Sayles Trail and Purcell Road. An existing segment of the Oregon-Badger State Trail Connector, an off-street, county-operated trail, runs from the Village of Oregon to South Fish Hatchery Road. Planned extensions would run along Purcell Road and the north town line to connect to the Badger State Trail.

Dane County has proposed the Fitchburg-Oregon Rail Trail, a shared-use trail that would run from Union Road southeasterly to the Village of Brooklyn. This facility is currently in the planning stages.

Paved shoulders along County Trunk Highways D and MM are adequate to accommodate bicycle traffic. Many of the local town roads may also be suitable for on-road bicycle use. The Madison Area Transportation Board maintains an online "[Low-Stress Bicycle Route Finder](#)" that can help find other suitable bicycle routes.

G. Rail

There are no active rail lines in the Town of Oregon.

An abandoned rail line, known as the “Harvard Sub,” runs north and south through the Village of Oregon and through the eastern portion of the town. This rail corridor has been acquired by State of Wisconsin rail bank program for future use as a multi-use recreational trail.

H. Intercity Bus Service

Badger, VanGalder, and Greyhound bus lines provide regular commercial bus service from the Dutch Mill lot (U.S. Highways 12, 18 & 51, approximately 15 miles from the town hall) to a variety of destinations in the Midwest, including Milwaukee, Janesville, Beloit, Eau Claire, LaCrosse, Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

I. Trucking

Truck traffic utilizes the many highways that run through the Town.

J. Water Transportation:

Because no significant water bodies exist in the Town, water transportation is not available.

K. Airports:

There are three private, grassed-runway air strips in the Town of Oregon: Storytown Airfield in Section 17; Peterson Field in Section 10, and; Syvrud airstrip in Section 26.

The [Dane County Regional Airport](#) (MSN) is located in the City of Madison, approximately 25 miles from the Town of Oregon town hall. Commercial airlines operate daily non-stop flights to 19 destinations in the continental United States.

II. Applicable County and Regional Transportation Plans

A. [Regional Transportation Plan 2050 \(2017\)](#):

Federal law requires Regional Transportation Plans for urban areas over 50,000 in population (such as the Dane County / Madison metropolitan area) as a condition for spending federal highway and transit funding. Adopted by the Madison Area Transportation Board, the *Regional Transportation Plan 2050* provides an overview of how the region intends to invest in the transportation system across all modes.

B. [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) \(updated annually\)](#):

The *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, which the Madison Area TPB updates annually, is a coordinated listing of short-range transportation improvement projects anticipated to be undertaken in the next five-year period. Projects within the Madison Area TPB Planning Area must be included in the TIP in order to be eligible to receive federal funding assistance. Outer county area projects are also listed for information and coordination purposes.

C. [Bicycle Transportation Plan \(2015\)](#):

Adopted by the Madison Area Transportation Plan, the *Bicycle Transportation Plan* provides a framework for cooperation between state agencies, Dane County, and local governments in planning for and developing bicycle facilities and programs.

D. [Dane County Comprehensive Plan \(2012\)](#):

Adopted by the Dane County Board of Supervisors, the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan* includes countywide goals, objectives and policies for transportation.

III. Applicable State Transportation Plans

A. [Connections 2030 \(2009\)](#)

Connections 2030 is the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) long-range transportation plan for the state. This plan addresses all forms of transportation over a 20-year planning horizon: highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and transit. WisDOT officially adopted *Connections 2030* in October 2009. Planned transportation improvements affecting the Town of Oregon are included in the [Madison Metropolitan Planning Area](#) section.

B. [Six-Year Highway Improvement Program](#) (updated annually)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation adopts the Six-Year Highway Improvement Program to identify capital improvements to the portions of the 11,745-mile statewide highway system which is administered and maintained directly by WISDOT. Planned improvements affecting Dane County, including the Town of Oregon, are contained in the [Southwest Region](#) section.

C. [Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030](#) (2009)

Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 identifies rail issues that reflect the views of Wisconsin citizens, businesses and government officials. The plan includes a number of key parts, including a statewide vision for freight, intercity passenger and commuter rail; and an inventory of Wisconsin's rail system, rail service and rail facilities.

D. [State Freight Plan](#)

The State Freight Plan (SFP) provides a vision for multimodal freight transportation and positions the state to remain competitive in the global marketplace. The SFP was approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation on March 19, 2018.

IV. Transportation Goals, Objectives and Policies

A. Goals:

1. Continue to cost effectively maintain the Town's road infrastructure at a level of service desired by Town residents and businesses.
2. Accommodate multiple modes of transportation, as appropriate.
3. Plan for anticipated traffic demand.
4. Address other transportation related policies required by Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law.

B. Objectives:

1. Provide reasonable access to an adequate and safe public transportation system for all residents, farmers, and businesses.
2. Ensure adequate town road capacities and conditions to safely and efficiently accommodate automotive, trucking, agricultural equipment, bicycle and pedestrian traffic.
3. Establish and sustain an ongoing road maintenance program with limited funding.
4. When reconstructing roads the Town will consider multiple users and incorporate provisions to enhance the safety of these users. Multiple users may include bikers, farmers and snowmobiles. Such provisions may include, but is not limited to adding bike lanes, signage or increasing width to accommodate farming equipment.
5. Work with Dane County and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to make sure improvements to County Trunk Highways and State Highways support the goals and objectives of this plan.
6. Evaluate traffic impacts on all development projects and require road improvements where appropriate.
7. Recognize all applicable state and regional transportation plans.

8. Recognize all transportation policies and programs defined in the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*.

C. Policies and Programs:

1. Transportation Alternatives for Disabled Residents. Publicize the availability of assistance for potentially disabled Town residents through the Town newsletter, and continue to rely on neighboring urban areas and regional programs to provide transportation access for disabled residents.
2. Coordinate Planning for Rail Services. Work with the Village of Oregon, the City of Fitchburg, and Wisconsin Southern Railroad to determine the long term viability of rail services on this line.
3. Coordination and Planning of Bicycle Planning or Pedestrian Routes. Ensure that the Town of Oregon has an active role in providing any input on bicycle routes through the Town of Oregon planned by Dane County or the Madison Area MPO, as well as any routes planned by the Village of Oregon, Village of Brooklyn, City of Fitchburg, Village of Belleville, or as proposed by the Town Parks Commission.
4. Incorporation of Pedestrian Planning. Require that developments address the necessity of adequate walking areas and routes in both residential and commercial areas.
5. Designation of Truck Routes. Continue to designate weight restrictions and truck routes, especially those serving quarrying operations.
6. Protection of Town Roads. Encourage traffic patterns that do not increase traffic on Town Roads unnecessarily, and require intergovernmental agreements that define the responsibilities of the Town, the developer and the neighboring community regarding any required improvements to Town roads and funding of such improvements.
7. Coordination of Improvements to County Highways. Stay apprised of Dane County's efforts to maintain and improve CTH D, CTH A, CTH MM, and CTH CC.
8. Continue Implementation of Town Driveway Ordinance. Continue to implement the Town driveway ordinance to minimize the amount of access points onto Town roads and to ensure adequate sight distances.

9. Maintain Condition Standards for Town Roadways. Maintain an average PASER rating of 7 for all Town Roads, and establish and prioritize future road projects based on the applicable PASER score.
10. Joint Planning of Roads that Cross Jurisdictions. Work with neighboring municipalities to plan, construct and maintain those roadways that affect both jurisdictions, including cost sharing where appropriate.
11. Maintain Town Culvert, Bridge and Ditch Program. Maintain the Town's culvert and ditch inspection program, and implement culvert replacements and grading of ditches on Town roadways as needed on an annual basis.
12. Address vehicular safety concerns on town roads and county and state highways.
13. Work with WISDOT and County Highways to improve safety to accommodate wider farm equipment and heavy automobile traffic.
14. Work with the Dane County Sheriff and the State Patrol to enforce traffic regulations and reduce automobile/farm equipment safety problems, and ask the Sheriff for written reports of specific kinds of accidents in the Town.
15. Work with the Dane County Public Works, Highways and Transportation Department to improve shoulders on State and County roads.
16. Work with biking organizations to identify biking routes and where possible to expand notification to Town residents.
17. Continue to work with school districts to maintain safe, efficient bus transportation for students.