

Transportation

Major Findings

- ❑ The operation of a major train line through the Town has created annoyance to residents who must wait long periods at railroad crossings and are woken by train whistles at night.
- ❑ The general public noted that town roads are generally in good condition.
- ❑ Town residents live in an area that provide good variety of transportation alternatives.

Recommendations

- ❑ The Town needs to seek an agreement with Canadian National Railroad to obey federal “waiting laws” at rail crossings, decrease total number of crossings, and build strategically located bridges to cross rail lines, and maintain their drainageways.
- ❑ The Town has some roadways that were at one time private driveways, but were dedicated as public roads. Restrictions need to be written to prevent platting lots off of these standard roads.

Goals, Objectives, and Program

Goal #1

- ❑ Provide a safe, efficient and well-maintained system for motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic within the Town of Friendship.

Objectives

1. **County and State Communication** Actively participate with Fond du Lac County Highway Department and the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) on road projects that may affect the Town of Friendship.
2. **Natural Resources Impact** Minimize the impact of new transportation improvements on the community’s natural resources.

Program

- ❑ A tool the Town of Friendship uses to determine budget priorities for road construction and repair is PASER (pronounced pacer). PASER is a simplified pavement management program that communities use to evaluate pavement surface condition. The PASER rating reflects the physical condition of the street. The highest possible rating is 10. The roads with a low rating should be the focus of budget decisions made by the Town of Friendship regarding road repair and maintenance.

Goal #2

- ❑ Work with Canadian National Railroad and Fond du Lac County to address issues that are impacting the quality of life in the Town of Friendship.

Objective

- ❑ Communicate with Canadian National Railroad Town concerns regarding long time delays at crossings, unacceptable levels of ditch maintenance, and excessive whistle noise

Background Information

Transportation Modes

See Map 8 Transportation Modes

Table 6
Transportation Modes

Mode	Location/Provider	Analysis
Trucks	None	
Railroads		
Freight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian National Railway operates a line that runs north/south through Friendship. 	More information available at www.cn.ca .
Passenger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	The nearest Amtrak station is in Columbus, about 40 miles away.
Mass Transit	None	
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Mitchell International Airport - Milwaukee • Outagamie County Regional Airport - Appleton • Fond du Lac County Airport, Fond du Lac 	<p>Located an hour south of Fond du Lac, General Mitchell provides non-stop service to approximately cities. Mitchell International is the largest airport in Wisconsin. More information can be found at www.mitchellairport.com</p> <p>Located 45 minutes north of Fond du Lac, the Outagamie County Regional Airport has regularly scheduled commercial passenger air service. More information can be found at www.atwairport.com</p> <p>The Fond du Lac County Airport has no regularly scheduled commercial passenger air service. FdL Skyport offers private charter service, aircraft maintenance and repair, flight instruction, and aircraft rentals. More information can be found at www.fdlskyport.com</p>
Water	None	
Specialized	Fond du Lac County	<p>Elderly Service: Provide transportation to people 60 years of age or older.</p> <p>Handi-van Service: Provide lift-equipped transportation to individuals of any age with mobility challenges.</p> <p>Escort Service: Provide car transportation to frail people of any age; medical only</p>
Trails	Freindl Trail	Snowmobile trail within the town
Bridges	Fond du Lac County	The County maintains four bridges, all located on CTH "RP" (formally STH 175). Two are in or by Van Dyne (river crossing north and railroad crossing) and two on Melody Lane (one north and one south).

Source: Martenson & Eisele, Inc. and Town of Friendship

Street and Highway Classification

- The street and highway system in the Town of Friendship consists of urban minor arterials, rural major and minor collectors, urban collectors, and local roads (see Map 8, Street Classifications and Traffic Counts). These classifications are from the WDOT and are based on which primary function the street or highway serves the movement of vehicles through an area or to provide access to adjacent land (also found on Exhibit 10 of the Fond du Lac Area Urbanized Functional Classification System Map). Arterials generally accommodate the movement of vehicles while local streets provide direct access to individual parcels of land. Collectors serve both local and through traffic by providing a connection between arterials and local streets.

Traffic Counts

- Table 6 shows the average annual daily traffic counts for the major roads in and around Friendship.

Table 7

Traffic Counts – Town of Friendship

Roadway	2000	2003	2005	Comments
USH 45 south of CTH “N”	4,600	4,500	4,400	Slight decrease
USH 45 north of CTH “N”	2,800	3,300	3,300	Slight increase
STH 175 north of CTH “N”	1,500	1,500	1,500	No change
CTH “N” west of CTH “RP”	630	830	830	Slight increase
CTH “N” between CTH “RP” and STH 45	440	480	480	Slight increase
CTH “OO” west of USH 41	560	770	770	Slight increase
USH 41 northwest of Fond du Lac			27,700	Cannot compare

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Transportation Plans

Town of Friendship Road Projects

- Town of Friendship officials review and budget for transportation projects as part of the Town’s annual budget process. As part of that review, the Town should communicate with the Fond du Lac County Highway Department to identify projects being planned for the town.

Railroad Quiet Zone

- Train horns can be silenced if safety measures compensate for the absence of the horns. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) train horn rule provides localities nationwide with the opportunity to establish quiet zones. The federal rule pre-empts all applicable state laws.
- If the Town of Friendship wishes to establish a quiet zone, a study would need to be done to determine adequate safety measures to overcome the decrease in safety created by silencing the train horns.
- The additional safety measures must be constructed at the Town’s own expense and must meet federal specifications. There are various safety measures that can be used at the crossings as safety measures. Alternatives include four-quadrant gates, permanent closure, reflective traffic channelization devices, and non-traversable curb medians. Safety improve-

ments would not need to be installed at all crossings. The quiet zone is approved based on overall safety risk reduction of the entire zone.

Fond du Lac County

- ❑ Fond du Lac County prioritizes and budgets for transportation improvements on an annual basis. There are no plans for projects in the Town of Friendship.

East Central Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC)

- ❑ As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fond du Lac Urbanized Area, the ECWRPC has developed a long-range plan for transportation improvements through 2035 in the Fond du Lac Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). No specific projects are slated for the Town of Friendship. Information can be found at www.eastcentralrpc.org/FondduLacMPO/LRP.htm.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

- ❑ The Town of Friendship is part of the WDOT's Northeast Region.
- ❑ The Northeast Region has established a Six-Year (2006-2011) Highway Improvement Program to make necessary maintenance and improvements to the state's road network. Projects located within the Town of Friendship include resurfacing USH 45 from the north county line to Scott Street in 2008.
- ❑ The entire Northeast District Six-Year Highway Improvement Program can be viewed at www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/state/sixyear/docs/nerlisting.pdf.

Transportation Programs

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

- ❑ The WDOT offers numerous federal and state programs to local units of government in need of financial aid for desired projects. The form of financial aid provided typically comes as a grant or reduced rate loan to the applicant. Each program's general goal is to enhance the state's overall transportation network. Information on these programs can be found at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/.