

RESOLUTION R-8-09

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS FUNDING

Introduced by Mayor Merkes

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriated \$27.5 billion for highway construction and the State of Wisconsin received \$529.1 million; and

WHEREAS, the federal government required that 50% of the allocation be obligated within 75 days of passage; and

WHEREAS, many cities in the State of Wisconsin did not have qualified plans for the federal guidelines favoring arterial and collector routes the vast majority of initial stimulus spending went to Wisconsin Department of Transportation freeway and highway priority projects; and

WHEREAS, the local infrastructure and roads that serve the freeway and interstate system are critical to the State’s overall transportation system for economic development; and

WHEREAS, local governments are struggling with the economic downturn, foreclosures, high unemployment and all the challenges to public systems and resources they entail; and

WHEREAS, the State DOT will advance many projects ahead of its planned schedule, freeing resources to be committed at a later date;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Menasha urges the Governor, Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Legislature and U.S. Congress as follows:

- That DOT consider allowing ARRA funds for the local 20% match on 2009/2010 projects so that the local funding could be redirected and used for local paving and resurfacing needs. Local governments would pledge to apply these funds to the backlog in local projects that do not qualify for federal stimulus funds because they are not collectors or arterials;
- That DOT direct more GTA funding into local road improvement and paving projects with the resources now covered by federal stimulus funding by the advancement of state highway projects under ARRA.
- That all parties work together to seek any necessary waivers or changes in federal rules, regulations, or legislation that would direct more resources to local infrastructure maintenance.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Menasha wants to continue more discussion and action on funding solutions for local infrastructure needs in light of 18 years of frozen shared revenue aids and state’s own fiscal condition.

PASSED AND APPROVED this day of April, 2009

Donald Merkes, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk