

Dear WTA,

I appreciate the opportunity to write to you in regards to transportation stories in the Town of Greenville. The township, located in the NW corner of the Fox Valley region, remains one of the fastest growing municipalities in the state and is nearing a population of 12,000 people. Greenville has three state highways that traverse the township including STH 15, STH 76, and STH 96. These corridor roadways along with County Trunk Highways and the significant commercial and residential growth in the community are demanding improvements. The Greenville Town Board, Town Staff as well as local Board members from Outagamie County continue to attempt to reach out to state officials imploring for change, but requests have been rebuffed or ignored. The township has three significant projects of need repeatedly seeing budgeted monies repurposed for projects in other parts of the state. These projects include the WIS 15 Expansion in Outagamie County, the WIS 76 Urbanization project, and the WIS 76 & School Rd intersection in the Town of Greenville.

WIS 15 is a busy commuter route between New London and the Fox Cities area. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) website, this project will increase safety, enhance economic development and lower transportation costs in the region by expanding 11 miles of WIS 15 to a 4-lane divided highway bypassing the Village of Hortonville. Even though the majority of land acquisitions for this project have completed, state officials continue to pluck monies from this initiative for efforts in other regions of the state. Traffic forecasts along the corridor show without an expansion, WIS 15 has a failing level of service by 2040 and already sees heavy regional traffic conflicting with local traffic. We need our taxpayer's money to stay home benefiting local development.

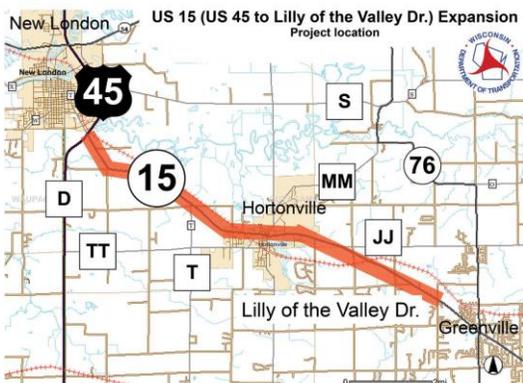


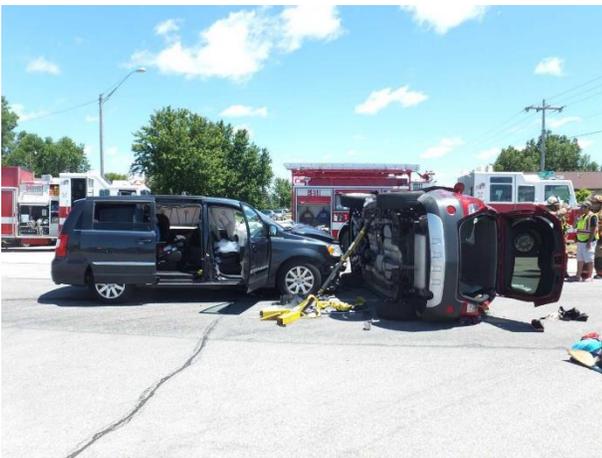
Image credit to WI DOT: <http://wisconsin.gov/Documents/projects/by-region/ne/wis15/map-location.pdf>

A second project the state had planned within Greenville is the WIS 76 Urbanization project. Due to statewide budget cuts, in particular to transportation funded projects, the Wisconsin DOT is no longer planning to fully reconstruct and urbanize STH 76 from STH 15 to CTH JJ. Rather, the State is planning to simply mill and pave (resurface) the roadway. Traffic volume has grown on this roadway over the last 10 years due to significant residential growth and the addition of a new public elementary school to the area. This narrow roadway was assuredly engineered for traffic volumes of yesteryear and definitely not to support the current recreational use it now is asked to support. Comprehensive planning for Greenville has this area earmarked for additional substantial residential growth, which will only add to a worsening problem. In addition, the local public school district is considering a second school building on 43 acres of land they are already own and occupy, which this highway supports. Urbanizing this roadway by expanding the width of vehicle traffic lanes, adding safe pedestrian walkways, and adding recreational use lanes must not be overlooked by nearsighted officials. With continued growth and development in this area, I would hate for the State to spend monies on insufficient projects that do not achieve the full immediate need and value for the community.



STH 76 in Greenville, WI

As Greenville Town Chairperson, I most often hear from concerned citizens in regards to their concerns about the safety of one particular intersection in the community, STH 76 and the Town's School Road. This intersection is a consistent stop for the community's volunteer fire department and first responders, as accidents occur at the intersection on a regular basis.



Images of motor vehicle accidents at the intersection of STH 76 & School Road in Greenville, WI

In 2016 the Town of Greenville petitioned the state to reduce speed limits on STH 76 and to examine its intersections (STH 15 to STH 96) primarily to address safety concerns. Unfortunately, our requests have been declined, as the number of fatalities on this section of roadway is not sufficient to warrant the requested changes. In addition, the WI DOT informed the township reducing the speed limits would likely result in increased accidents as drivers tend to drive the maximum capable speed of the roadway despite posted speed limits. Once again, the Town's residential growth in this area, estimated 500 new residential dwellings within ½ mile of the STH 76 corridor, will significantly add to the issue. The Town alone cannot bear the burden of the cost for a modern roundabout and hope state officials open their eyes and aid in addressing a significant issue on their roadway.

Sincerely,

Jack Anderson
Greenville Town Chairperson

Kevin Sturn
Outagamie County Board