

**20
21**

Annual Report

LA CROSSE COUNTY
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



CTH SN Project 2021

Joe Langeberg, Highway Commissioner



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Steady Progress

2021 OVERVIEW

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



The past year was another productive one at the Highway Department. We replaced 24 failing culverts, paved 6.28 miles of roadway, and upgraded about 2,800 feet of flex beam guardrail. This work was completed by our dedicated and talented crews.

We were also fortunate in landing two Wisconsin Department of Transportation projects - one bridge project and one roadway project. These projects mean we are continuing to make steady progress to meet our ever-growing infrastructure needs. You can view the location of our 2021 and planned 2022 projects on the map at the end of this report. Construction work on our new satellite shop on STH 33 is now 85% complete and should wrap up in 2022. The facility will allow us to consolidate our Shelby and St. Joe's shops into one site, producing greater efficiencies so we can better serve the public.

Thank you for your continued support,

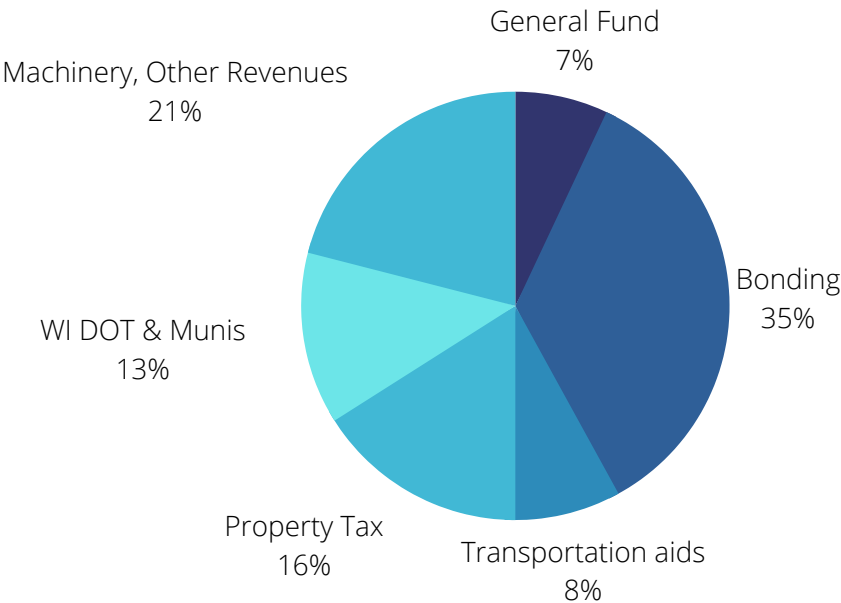
Joe Langeberg, PE,
La Crosse County Highway Commissioner

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- CTH YY in the Town of Greenfield, from USH 14 to STH 33, was repaved and upgraded for safety.
- CTH TA in the Town of Farmington, from CTH T to CTH A, was also repaved and upgraded for safety.
- Bridge P320100 was reconstructed on CTH M just west of CTH W (Town of Onalaska).
- The last portion of CTH SN in the Village of Holmen was reconstructed to an urban section with multi-use path.

2021 Finances

REVENUE & EXPENSES



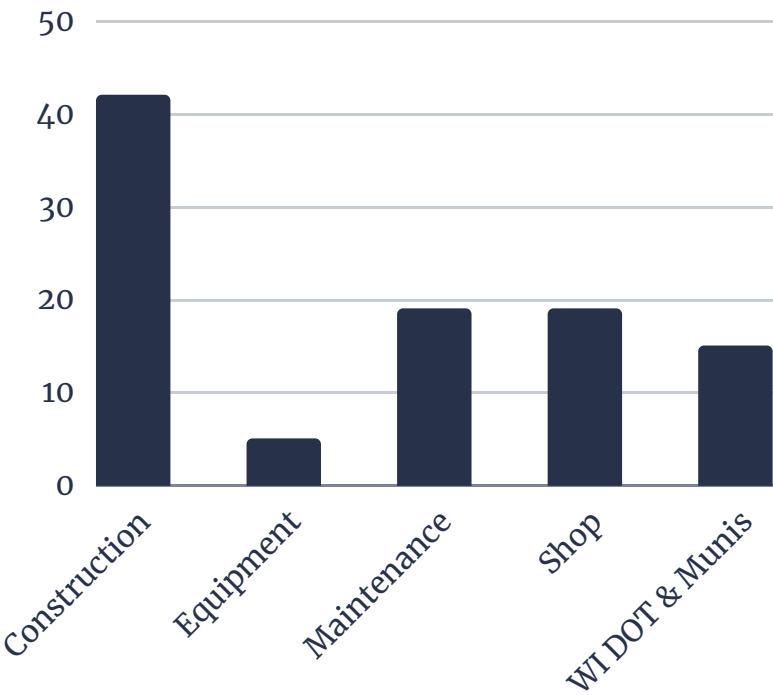
REVENUE

- County General Fund Reserves: \$1,500,000
- Bonding (Borrowing): \$7,700,000
- General Transportation Aids: \$1,729,870
- Property Tax: \$3,569,154
- WI DOT & Municipalities: \$2,854,556
- Machinery & Other Revenues: \$4,702,350
- **Total: \$22,055,930**

EXPENSES

- Road & Bridge Construction Projects: \$8,088,610*
- Equipment Purchases: \$1,035,395
- Road & Bridge Maintenance: \$3,725,000
- Shop Expense: \$3,743,000
- WI Dot & Municipal Projects : \$2,854,556
- **Total: \$19,446,561**

**Includes \$3.4 million for construction of the new St. Joseph's Shop.*



282

Miles of County Highway are managed by the Highway Department

72

Bridges in La Crosse County are under the Highway Department's jurisdiction

157

Miles of state roads are maintained by the Highway Department

Inside the Highway Dept.

WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT

5 THINGS TO KNOW

1. A ton of asphalt cost \$24.55 in 1999, last year it cost \$57.24. An increase of over 230%.
2. A plow truck cost \$85,873 in 1999 and now costs \$210,197. An increase of over 244%.
3. 25% of the county's bridges were built in the 1970s.
4. The county owns and maintains three bridges built in the 1930s.
5. It costs about \$3,000 per hour to have all 26 county snow plows out during a snowstorm.

2021 EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

- The Highway Commissioner, Ron Chamberlain, retired after 10 years of service.
- Cathy Tschumper was promoted from Shop Crew Lead to Shop Superintendent.
- Gregory Lindvig was promoted to Shop Crew Lead.
- Carol Witt-Smith started as the new Highway Administrative Clerk.
- Joe Langeberg was promoted from Highway Engineer to Highway Commissioner.



SPOTLIGHT: CATHY TSCHUMPER

Cathy joined the department in 2008. She is the department's Shop Superintendent.

"I like that I'm constantly having to use my brain, that I'm constantly moving and learning new things."

Looking Forward

PROJECTS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

PLANNED FOR 2022

- Reconstruct CTH M, from CTH B to CTH O in the Town of Barre, including bike accommodations.
- Reconstruct Bridge P320055 on CTH D in the Town of Onalaska, just north of CTH W.
- Move into the new STH 33 Shop, combining the Shelby & St Joe's shops.
- Replace 25 failing culverts on various County roadways.

OPPORTUNITIES, HURDLES

We continue to promote and find efficiencies to reduce maintenance costs. Material costs continue to skyrocket and stretching the dollar is always a top priority. In the past seven years at the Highway Department the cost of hot mix asphalt has increased over 30% per ton and it takes around 3,300 tons to pave the average one mile of roadway.

Keeping the roadways clear is always a challenge and balancing act. In Wisconsin, salt is the preferred material used to get roads clear of ice and hard pack, but it can be hard on the environment. The Highway Shop has and will keep pursuing the reduction of the use of salt. This reduction is happening by pre-storm brine spraying, better staged brine refill locations, and through the use of new or upgraded equipment that focuses on brine over granular salt.

UPCOMING DATES

- 1/24/22 (1pm and 4pm)– West Salem Highway Shop tour and Project Presentation.
- 7/25/22 (1pm)– STH 33 new Highway Shop tour.

Questions or Comments?



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PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2020-2022)

- Randy Erickson, Chair
- Maureen Freedland, Vice Chair
- Steve Doyle
- Ralph Geary
- Matt Nikolay
- Gary Padesky
- Pam Viner

MISSION STATEMENT

The La Crosse County Highway Department is dedicated to providing and maintaining a safe, cost-effective highway system for the traveling public and the taxpayers of La Crosse County.

Location

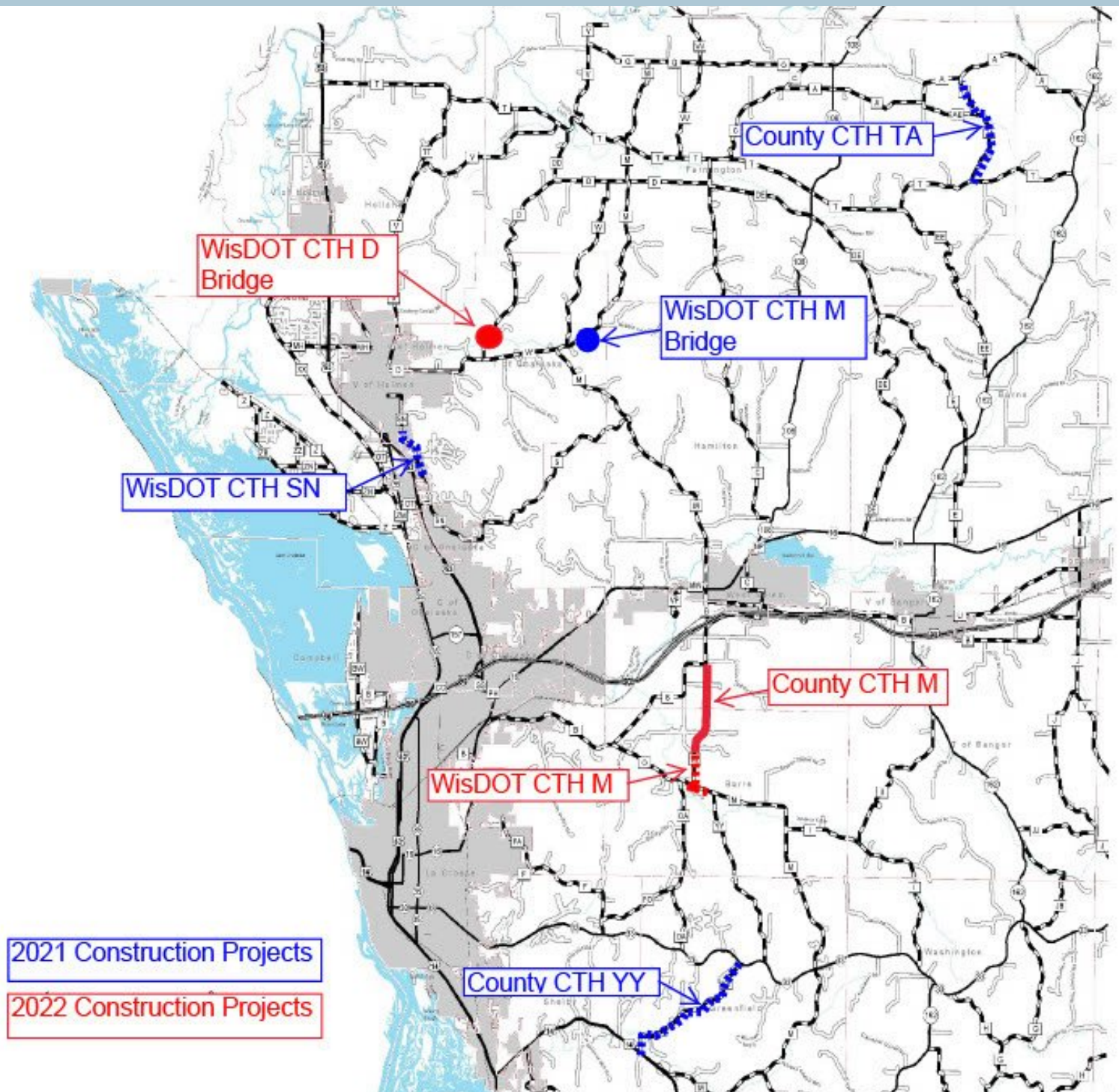
301 Carlson Road
West Salem, WI 54669

Contact

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Project Map

2021/2022 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



@LaCrosseCounty



@LaCrosseCountyGov



@lsectyhighway



lacrossecounty.org/highway



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.