

Policy #13

50/50 Road Aid

The 50/50 Road Aid Program is a program designed to help Wood County municipalities offset the costs of large construction projects.

Blank petitions are sent out to all Wood County Municipalities, except the Cities of Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids (due to the Construction Group MOU), in March. The petitions are a request to the County Board to set aside \$5,000 in county aid for the municipality in the next budget cycle (the following year after petition submission). Each municipality may only submit one petition per year. Petitions are due at the Highway Department office by July 1. The County Board, at its November meeting, appropriates the money in the budget. There is no cap on the number of years that a municipality can petition aid before using the funds on a construction project.

The Highway Department maintains a record of each individual municipality's 50/50 Road Aid Program balance. The balance consists of a Municipality Portion and a County Portion. Municipalities may send money to the Highway Department and designate it as an advance on 50/50 Road Aid projects. This advance money constitutes the Municipality Portion of the municipality's 50/50 Road Aid balance. The County Portion of the municipality's 50/50 Road Aid balance is determined by the petitions submitted and how many years that the funding has accumulated without being fully utilized.

When a municipality has determined that they have a project for which the funds are eligible (see below), they will contact Highway Department personnel and inform them of the project and the desire to use 50/50 Road Aid funding for the project. The work has to be performed by County forces.

At the conclusion of the project, a statement showing the municipality's amount of aid available and the project cost is sent to the municipality, along with an invoice for the balance due to the Highway Department. The Highway Department will pay 50% of the total project cost up to the limit of the County Portion of the municipality's 50/50 Road Aid balance. Project costs in excess of the limit of the County Portion will be the responsibility of the municipality.

(Adopted September 30, 1987 / Amended December, 2005 / Revised January 18, 2016 / Revised March 5, 2020)

See attached for a list of eligible and ineligible projects.

There is confusion in the use of terms like improvement, construction, maintenance, etc. These terms have legal implications as they relate to town road standards, completion of state cost reports, etc. Therefore, we will avoid the use of these terms. We will adopt general wording for use specifically for our Town Road 50/50 Program. The following terminology and definitions will be used:

ELIGIBLE WORK UNDER THE TOWN ROAD 50/50 PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

This work will preserve or upgrade roadway facilities resulting in additional life exceeding four years, increase load or traffic volume capacities, or improved safety and traffic operations.

1. Sealcoating – chip seal, slurry seal over paved or gravel surfaces.
2. Overlays – thin overlays (less than 2 inches) for preservation; thick overlays for structural strengthening.
3. Recycling – milling or scarifying surfacing for new base course; cold and hot recycling, and concrete recycling.
4. Reconstruction – strengthening base, patching, and repair as a part of base improvement, final surfacing, major ditching and drainage improvement, localized grading and reconstruction for improvement of alignment, hills and curves, and intersections.
5. New construction – grading, base, and possible surfacing on new alignment, total reconstruction of existing roadway.
6. Shouldering – widening or rebuilding shoulders, addition of shoulder material required as a part of reconstruction or overlay, described above.
7. Drainage – major ditch restructuring.
8. Regraveling – addition of crushed rock to gravel on existing or new un-surfaced road for strengthening and rebuilding roadway (minimum nominal thickness of three inches).
9. Engineering – survey, design, construction administration for reconstruction and new construction.

NON-ELIGIBLE FOR TOWN ROAD 50/50 PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Routine maintenance – ongoing activities repeated on daily or monthly basis.
2. Crackfilling or sealing.
3. Roadside maintenance - including brushing, tree removal, mowing, or spraying.
4. Minor shoulder graveling.
5. Patching and small repairs.
6. Routine grading, ditching, or dust control on un-surfaced roads.
7. Housekeeping items such as cleaning, litter pick-up, opening drains, individual sign replacement, culvert clearing, minor ditching.
8. Winter maintenance: plowing, salting, sanding, or snow loading.
9. Building and equipment maintenance and repair.
10. Miscellaneous: Including administration, supervision, routine patrolling, or general overhead, not associated with acceptable work items.
11. Matching other state or federal programs.

(Adopted November 30, 1988)