

Pedestrian safety planning grants

Photo: Dan Burden, from PHIC Information Library, www.pedbikeimages.org



WisDOT's Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) has funds for small pedestrian safety planning contracts. "The goal is to help communities evaluate and plan for improving pedestrian safety," says Joanne Pruitt-Thunder, Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Program Manager. The funds helped support Walking Workshops in six communities this year. The money comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Two types of contracts are available: Transportation Safety and Safe Routes to Schools. This year's Transportation Safety grants, up to \$2000 each, will be targeted primarily to communities or coalitions with 10,000 people or more, Pruitt-Thunder says. If there is a Safe Communities Coalition, it must have identified pedestrian safety as a goal for the year. Proposals are invited immediately. Funds will be available as early as October 1st and must be spent within the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004. BOTS has a Request

for Proposals form that gives details on criteria and how to apply.

"Anyone concerned about transportation safety issues is can initiate the process, working with a unit of government," says Pruitt-Thunder. "That may be the mayor, county executive, health department, law enforcement, school administration." The contract must be issued to a governmental unit and requires a 25% match. Evaluation, expense and match reports are required at the end.

Safe Routes to Schools contracts are designed to get children to school safely on their own power, rather than by bus or car. They are generally planning contracts, made with school districts, law enforcement, traffic engineering units, or others, that involve studying primary routes to school.

"By end of the funding year they must show that they have planned for and provided at least one safe walking or bicycling route for each child living within two miles of the school, and farther for older students," says Pruitt-Thunder. The process helps bring together community resources to focus on and evaluate these routes, and document the need for other projects such as design, engineering, enforcement, or education. Past Safe Routes to School contracts have been up to \$4000.

For applications and detailed information contact your DOT Regional Program Manager, or Joanne Pruitt-Thunder, 608/267-3154. joanne.pruitt-thunder@dot.state.wi.us

Walking

from page 1

Many other communities are also making strides on pedestrian safety. For example, in 2002 the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission used a BOTS grant to sponsor pedestrian safety workshops with nine communities in the area. The cities of Marshfield and Cedarburg also have strong programs.

Any community can work with the WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) to request funding for a workshop, according to Keller. In addition to the audit, a Walking Workshop includes local presenters reporting on sidewalk policy, maintenance policies, costs, walking for health, and number of people walking, plus an action planning stage.

"It's important to have an on-going policy

effort that looks comprehensively at walking and can take the emotion and hostility out of the planning process," Keller notes. "You do that through sustained, focused committee work that involves citizens, staff, and elected officials and makes regular reports to the public."

*For more information on **Walking Workshops** and for information on other community pedestrian safety projects, contact Kit Keller at 262/375-6180 or info@wisconsinwalks.org. For information on the **Manitowoc County program**, contact Ann Schneider-Allen at 920/683-4155 or annallen@co.manitowoc.wi.us. See Resources on page 6 for information on Detectable Warning Curb Ramps, and for a URL to the Walkability Checklist.*

Pavement condition reports due in December

Local road agencies must report their pavement condition ratings to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) by December 15, 2003. The information is entered into a statewide database called the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR). WISLR is designed to assist local governments and WisDOT in better managing local roadways.

Rating pavements every two years gives local communities a useful tool for evaluating their road system's condition, and planning maintenance and repairs. The objective data helps them explain needs and budgets to citizens and elected officials.

Most communities will use the PASER rating system to evaluate their pavement conditions. Manuals are available free to help you rate concrete, asphalt, gravel, sealcoat, and unimproved pavements. The manuals have photos and text describing the rating system and its use, show types of pavement distress, and give examples of each rating.

Some agencies began collecting and recording their 2003 pavement ratings this summer. About 300 have already requested current electronic spreadsheets, says Kelly Schieldt, Wisconsin Statewide Local Roads Coordinator. WisDOT can accept pavement rating submittals via electronic spreadsheets, downloads from PASERWARE 3.0, or paper reports.

"We strongly encourage local municipalities to submit their data electronically, either on spreadsheet or through PASERWARE 3.0," says Schieldt. "That allows us to load the information into the database quickly, making it available sooner." Once WisDOT processes the rating data, users will be able to view the data online, print maps and request reports.

PASERWARE users need to use Version 3.0, which will be distributed soon. The program is being revised to use the "On/At" system of describing pavement sections. These users could record and submit their ratings on electronic spreadsheets and load it later in PASERWARE 3.0, if they prefer not to wait. (For a description of the "On/At" system see the Spring 2003 **Crossroads** page 3.)

continued on page 6

T.I.C. celebrates 20 years

It was in the fall of 1983 that Wisconsin established the Transportation Information Center, among the pioneers in the federal Local Transportation Assistance Program. The centers, now numbering 57 in every state and on Tribal reservations, help local streets and highway agencies better manage their roads by offering training and technical assistance. Modeled after Cooperative Extension, the Program is a joint project of the Federal Highways Administration, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the University of Wisconsin-Extension Engineering Professional Development.

Don Walker, who originated the Wisconsin

Center, continues as its Director. Current staff are: Steve Pudloski, Ben Jordan, Keith Knapp, Jane Sauer, and Susanna Fuerstenberg. The original Crossroads team is also still on board: editor Lynn Entine and graphic artist Susan Kummer. Over its two decades the T.I.C. has been assisted by countless local, county, and state staff and elected officials, along with representatives of industry groups, private businesses and consultants. They have helped make the training programs and newsletter articles more accurate, appropriate, and useful.

The T.I.C. takes pride in continuing to offer training and information that helps local governments manage their roadway systems and thanks the many, many individuals who contributed their time and expertise to these efforts.

Pavement

from page 5

WisDOT sent an introductory letter to local governments in August about gaining access to WISLR. Formal training programs on using WISLR are being considered for the Fall 2003 through Spring 2004 time period. Formal training is not necessary, but is required if a local government wants privileges to edit its own data in WISLR.

To request On/At rating spreadsheets contact Crystal Van Woelderren at WisDOT at downloadinfo@dot.state.wi.us or 608/266-7135. For copies of PASER rating manuals use the form on pg. 7 or contact the T.I.C. at 800/442-4615, or tic@epd.engr.wisc.edu. Information on WISLR is also available online. See Resources below for URL. To submit ratings data, refer to the Web page or the letter from WISLR.

Resources

The following publications are available free from the T.I.C. while supplies last.

Notice of Availability of Draft Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines & Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way. United States Access Board, June 17, 2002. This document includes proposed guidelines for disabled accessibility for public rights-of-way. The draft guidelines are also available online at <http://www.access-board.gov/rowdraft.htm>

Detectable Warnings: Synthesis of U.S. and International Practice. U.S. Access Board, May 2000. This document includes information on the detectable warning products available and presents case histories of the installation and maintenance of detectable warning devices at U.S. and international locations. Also available on line at: <http://www.access-board.gov/indexes/pubsindex.htm>

Detectable Warning Curb Ramps, packet. Includes WisDot information and Standard Detail Drawings 8D5-9a, Curb Ramps Types 1,2 and 3 (revised 7/10/03) and 8D5-9b Curb Ramps Type 1A (new 7/10/03,) in 8½" x 11" size. Also: WisDOT Approved Products List for Curb Ramp Detectable Warning Fields, WisDOT Special Provision for Curb Ramps with Detectable Warning Surfaces, WisDOT Truncated Warning Domes for Handicap Access Ramps Report, and WisDOT Transportation Synthesis Report on Truncated Warning Domes

Common Roadside Invasives: A roadside field guide to showy herbaceous weeds, FHWA (No. FHWA-02-003). This laminated fold-out field guide includes color drawings, common and scientific names of invasive noxious weeds commonly found on roadsides. Useful for field identification of invasive weeds.

ATV Route Guidelines and Suggestions (A Community Official's Handbook), Pub. LE-109 offers information on establishing ATV routes on local roadways. Available from DNR, call: 608/266-2142 or online: www.dnr.state.wi.us, select Law Enforcement (under programs), and ATV, under Safety Education.

Websites

www.infosite4u.com provides access to a list of Wisconsin DOT accepted products.

Access Board publications on Accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance are available at: <http://www.access-board.gov/indexes/pubsindex.htm>

The Walkability Checklist is available at www.walkinginfo.org.

Pedestrian flags program: www.safecommunitycoalition.org and www.dmna.org.

WisDOT Transportation Synthesis Reports (TSRs) are available at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/library/research/reports/tsr.htm> The brief reports identify current information on topics of interest, referencing online and printed resources. There are many recently updated reports including *Truncated Warning Domes*, *Snowdrift Control*, and *Best Practices for Control of Invasive Plant Species*.

Information on the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR), including how to submit pavement rating data: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/wislr/>

Videotapes

Videos are loaned free through county UW-Extension offices. Copies of the **T.I.C. Video Lending Library Catalog** are available on request (print) from the T.I.C. and online at <http://tic.engr.wisc.edu/>

PASER Series, UW-Madison, 74 min. #18390 One videocassette with three PASER

training videos: *Asphalt-PASER* (46 min.); *Gravel-PASER* (15 min.) and *Sealcoat-PASER* (13 min.). Videos show how to evaluate and rate pavement conditions using the PASER Manuals. Also available individually:

Asphalt-PASER, UW-Madison, 46 min.

#17761 Investigates pavement distress and performance; looks at environmental and structural causes; identifies various types of asphalt pavement failures and classifies those failures on a scale of 1-10 (10 being perfect). It also discusses the remedies for repairing or rehabilitating those pavements.

Gravel-PASER, UW-Madison, 15 min. #18385 Describes common distress in gravel roads. Uses distress to rate gravel roads in PASER rating system. *Gravel-PASER Manual* is the text and field manual for implementation. Intended as a review for field evaluation and rating gravel roads by local agency officials.

Sealcoat-PASER, UW-Madison, 13 min. #18386 Describes common distress in gravel roads with an asphalt chip seal surface. Covers the evaluation and rating. The Sealcoat-PASER manual is the text for implementation. Intended as a review for field evaluation and rating of gravel roads with a sealcoat surface by local agency officials.

NEW Accessible Sidewalks: Design Issues or Pedestrians with Disabilities. U.S. Access Board, 40 min. #18618 Shows design issues and common problems with sidewalk accessibility from the perspective of pedestrians with disabilities. Illustrated with video of pedestrians with disabilities navigating actual sidewalks and street. Four parts:

1. Design Issues for Pedestrians Who Use Wheelchairs, 10 min.
2. Design Issues for Pedestrians with Ambulatory Impairments, 8 min.
3. Design Issues for Pedestrians with Low Vision, 11 min.
4. Design Issues for Pedestrians Who Are Blind, 11 min.