

On cost, Dittmar estimates saving \$800,000 during the last dozen years using cold mix asphalt on Monroe County highways. He requests bids at both hot and cold mix prices and, over the years, has seen the range of savings on cold mix go from \$5 per ton a decade ago to almost \$15 per ton savings today. County crews paving with cold-mix work from stockpiled materials or mix it a batch at a time with a portable plant.

Town roads too

The Town of Rockland in Manitowoc County and Brown County's Town of Glenmore also use cold mix asphalt on most road projects. Rockland County Town Chair Randy Brandes says cold mix paving accounts for 95 percent of his local roads. He says they do not see the longitudinal cracks at the centerline that can cause early deterioration. When cracks occur, the road surface "kneads" back together, regaining its strength. And it lasts, Brandes notes, citing a road resurfaced 19 years ago that remains in excellent shape with only one seal coat treatment in that time.

Don Kittell, Town Chair in Glenmore, says cost is the main issue for his community. They generally place cold mix asphalt or do chip seal over gravel on the 60 miles of roads and lanes under the town's jurisdiction. Farm equipment and heavy trucks put lots of weight on local roads, but Kittell says with a good base and timely maintenance, they perform well. He also notes the advantage with cold mix is its ability to mend itself, delaying the need for maintenance.

In the mix

Asphalt paving covers thousands of miles in Wisconsin, many of those miles the responsibility of local governments. Understanding more about advances in mix technology and materials production will help agencies evaluate all their options. Given cold mix asphalt's reputation as a flexible, portable, low-energy technology for paving low-volume roads, it belongs in the mix. ■

New online source for local roads issues

PUBLIC AGENCIES responsible for local roads have a new online source for timely information and commentary on the transportation issues that concern them. The **Local Roads Compendium** <http://localroads.wisc.edu/> is a clearinghouse of articles, reports, manuals, training materials and other resources covering a range of local roads topics.

The Wisconsin Transportation Information Center (TIC), the Wisconsin Transportation Center (Wistrans) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Local Roads and Streets Council developed the site as a way to gather valuable information from a variety of sources in one place. The Compendium also invites users to submit content and give feedback.

Navigate topics and news

The Compendium consolidates available resource materials on 29 roads-related topics and content updates in an easy-to-navigate format. Searching for information on a specific topic, site visitors will find links to publications, design tools, policies and ordinances, experts and videos. The site allows visitors to rate and offer comments on the relevance and value of each selection.

A page on the site dedicated to questions and comments gives local road officials visiting the site a chance to exchange questions and concerns about local roads management in Wisconsin. The "news" page is an outlet for site administrators and users to report on transportation-related activities or issues going in the state. A training and events page lists activities in Wisconsin and the surrounding area.

The mix of Compendium content already includes articles from past issues of **Crossroads** cataloged under specific resource topics and links to *Wisconsin Transportation Bulletins*, both published by TIC. Other sources to date include technology transfer



Resource Topic Areas

- Asphalt pavements
- Bridges
- Drainage
- Pavement maintenance
- Road construction & inspection
- Roundabouts
- Gravel & unimproved roads
- Worker safety
- Work zones
- Street lighting
- Management, budget & policy
- Erosion control
- Intersections & interchanges
- Bicycles, pedestrians & sidewalks
- Concrete pavements
- Freight & local roads
- Parking
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Road planning & design
- Utilities & permits
- Traffic engineering & operations
- Soils & geosynthetics
- Roadside maintenance
- Traffic safety
- Vehicles & equipment
- Environmental impacts
- Education & training
- Traffic signs & pavement markings
- Winter road maintenance

centers across the country; state DOTs and local road officials in Wisconsin.

User participation important

To build the Compendium into a robust online resource for public officials who manage and maintain local roads, the developers hope the site facilitates discussions among those officials. Researchers doing work on roads issues are another audience the site targets.

Visitors to the site can view all topic resources without being a member, but signing up gives users full access to the Compendium and the chance to participate in forums and exchanges. Members can submit content recommendations, including news articles (subject to review by content manager), create forums and post comments, contact other users and publish a brief profile on the site.

Active participation of local road officials and researchers will create a community of professionals who have knowledge and experience to share—through online give-and-take about challenging issues, best practices and the development of training materials. ■

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Resources

<http://localroads.wisc.edu/>
Homepage for Local Roads Compendium with links to resources, a feedback forum, news pages, and activities.

<http://tic. engr. wisc. edu/>
Wisconsin Transportation Information Center website.

www.wistrans.org/
Wisconsin Transportation Center website.

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/
Programs for Local Governments page at Wisconsin Department of Transportation website.