



## 2023 Spring Conference & Vendor Show Eau Claire | May 3-5 | The Lismore

<http://wisconsin.apwa.net/EventDetails/30666>

*By Rick Eilertson, Conference Chair*

**S**ave the date for the 2023 Spring Conference and Vendor Show, hosted by the Cities of Eau Claire and Altoona. The conference will be in-person and feature a golf outing, two bike tours, technical tours, a Young Professional (YP) event, educational sessions, social activities, and an interactive vendor show.

### Wednesday May 3

8:30am-3pm | Golf Outing at Wild Ridge Golf Course

9am-Noon | Guided bike tours of trails through Altoona and Eau Claire and (up to 3 PDH's) led by current Altoona City Administrator Mike Golat and retired Eau Claire City Administrator Dale Peters.

Noon-5:30pm | Registration at The Lismore

1-2:30pm | Technical Tours of the Eau Claire City Hall Renovation and Library Construction (up to 1.5 PDH's)

☞Page 4 (Spring Conference)

## President's Comments



*By Eric Dundee*

Just as state and local businesses continue to evolve, moving further and further away from the pan-

demic, the Chapter is looking to continue to evolve and provide more opportunities and connections for its members and supporters. The Chapter leaders met in Sturgeon Bay on a Sunday in February and worked on updating the Chapter's strategic plan and priorities (you can read more about that in this edition of the Chapter newsletter on page 5).

There were two themes during the meeting that kept coming up for me. First, the Chapter is strong and its strength is in its volunteers and supporters, who take on Chapter leadership, committee work, hosting conferences and events, contributing financially, contributing as technical experts and speakers, and giving their time to others in the public works profession. Second, we always need more volunteers. The Chapter needs members and supporters to give their most valuable resource, time, to keep the Chapter strong.

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Wisconsin Chapter News  
 April 2023

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 WISCONSIN CHAPTER NEWS is published quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.) by the Wisconsin Chapter, American Public Works Association. Subscription by Membership. Direct all inquiries to Aimee Irwin, email aimee.irwin@mcfarland.wi.us. Deadline for articles: June 9, September 8, December 8. Contact Nancy Cavanaugh, Editor, Cavanaugh Interactive, 6300 River Parkway, Ste. 402, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Phone (414) 771-8906, e-mail nancy@cavanaughinteractive.biz.  
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# Editor's Note

By Nancy Cavanaugh

## Wisconsin Weather Triggers Pesky Problems

I love Wisconsin winters. Two weeks ago I was up at 4:30 a.m. watching an ice storm blanket State Street in Wauwatosa. It was hauntingly beautiful. No traffic, no street noise, no lights. *Oh, no!*


The power was out for almost 15 hours. I've lived here for 45 years and this was a new record. A tree branch laden with heavy, wet snow was to blame. (Estimated 100,000 WE Energies customers affected.)

As public works professionals you know our weather is a double-edged sword. It's never boring, but it's tough on infrastructure. That means maintenance and repair are critical in order to secure public safety.

This edition focuses on the condition of Wisconsin roads and what's being done (or not done).

Motorists have been complaining about potholes for more than 100 years. (See "Potholes" on page 11.) Compounding this issue, according to the ASCE Report Card, Wisconsin roads rank fifth worst in the nation.

A second situation that's accelerating highway decline is deterioration, which is outpacing maintenance and repair. For example, the I-94 expansion on the west side of Milwaukee is still on hold after more than a decade of study and debate (See page 13). Built in the 1960's, the highway infrastructure is crumbling, traffic congestion is increasing, and nothing is happening *on site*.

Recently I got a cartoon showing how Sidney Cleenstreet deals with damaged pavement. *Yes, Sidney's back!* Although his solution may be dated, it's the thought that counts. 

### ON THE COVER:

Banner images: Left: The Oaks Golf Course is the destination for the 13th Annual Summer Outing (page 3). Center: Wisconsin Avenue looking west 100 years ago. Note the broken cobblestones, especially next to the streetcar (page 11). Right: Eau Claire City Hall/Library staircase bannisters were refurbished during remodeling (page 15).



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*The Oaks Golf Course is the setting for the 13th Annual Summer Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser.*

## **Register Now for the 13th Annual Summer Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser**

**Wednesday-July 26, 9:00 a.m. | Shotgun Start**  
**The Oaks Golf Course, Cottage Grove, Wis.**  
**<http://wisconsin.apwa.net/EventDetails/21175>**

*By Theo Taylor and Aaron Jahncke, Summer Outing Committee*

The 13th Annual Wisconsin Chapter Summer Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser is all set! This year's event will include two options for a day of summer fun on Wednesday, July 26. The "standard" event will be golfing at The Oaks Golf Course located in Cottage Grove, Wis. Sign up before July 12, 2023 for an early-bird discount. Early registration for golf is \$100 and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, giveaways, and inclusion in the prize drawings.

The "alternate" event, for those who don't golf, is a paddle event. Participants are encouraged to provide their own boats and gear. Cost is \$15 for the event, going directly to the fundraiser. You can register on the Chapter website or via the link below. Please contact **Rick Eilertson** at [rick.eilertson@aecom.com](mailto:rick.eilertson@aecom.com) if you are planning to attend the event so he can coordinate the group.

Online Registration is now active at: <http://wisconsin.apwa.net/EventDetails/21175>.

If you can't attend this year's summer z outing, there is a registration option to donate to the scholarship fund. Using the link above, Click "Register Now" at the top of the screen, and select "Myself." From this screen you can select Scholarship Donation. It is set up as a \$5 item, but you can increase the quantity if you wish to donate more. For example, you would enter a quantity of "5" to donate \$25.

As a fundraiser, all money raised through event registration, sponsorships, and donations go directly to the Wisconsin Chapter scholarship fund. The event committee would like to thank the sponsors (listed on the event webpage) who have already committed to this great event and we welcome anyone else who wants to sponsor this year's outing.

If you have any questions about the registration or sponsorships, please contact **Aaron Jahncke** at [ajahncke@waunakee.com](mailto:ajahncke@waunakee.com).

**Spring Conference** (Cont.'d from page 1)



*The Wild Ridge Golf Club, site of Wednesday morning's golf outing.*

1-5:30pm | Vendor Exhibit Setup at The Lismore (Wilson Hall)

3:30-5pm | Executive Committee and Committee Chairs Meeting

6-9pm | Get Acquainted Party at River Prairie Center in Altoona. Shuttle rides available from 5:30-10pm.

**Thursday May 4**

7am-5pm | Registration at The Lismore

7-8am | Breakfast Buffet and Conference Kickoff in Richmond Hall

8-8:50am | General Session on APWA Benefits and Resources – Value, Voice, Education, & Membership

9am-3:30pm | Educational Sessions in Wilson Hall and Richmond Hall

9am-3:30pm | Vendor Show in Wilson Hall, including Vendor Showcase Presentations

Noon-1pm | Lunch Buffet in Richmond Hall (includes Chapter Meeting w/ Election of Officers)

2-2:15pm | Afternoon Break with Vendors (popcorn, soda, lemonade)

4-5:30pm | Technical and Special Committee Meetings (Wilson A & F and Richmond Hall)

5:30-7:30pm | Chapter Awards Banquet in Richmond Hall

7-9pm | Post Banquet Adventures at Reboot Social Arcade (hosted by the YP Committee). Also includes options for Sculpture Tour and Experience Passes in Downtown Eau Claire (Curd Crawl, Brew Pass, etc.)

**Friday May 5**

7-10am | Registration at The Lismore

7-8am | Breakfast Buffet in Richmond Hall

8-9am | General Session (Wisconsin Legislative Update) in Richmond Hall

9am-Noon | Educational Sessions in Wilson Hall and Richmond Hall

12:15-1:30pm | Officer Installation Ceremony, followed by Lunch and Door Prizes in Richmond Hall

**Questions?**

General Conference: **Rick Eilertson** at (608) 402-5862 or [Rick.Eilertson@aecom.com](mailto:Rick.Eilertson@aecom.com).

Speaker and Vendor Exhibits: **Nathan Wachtendonk** at (920) 492-3751 or [Nathan.Wachtendonk@green-baywi.gov](mailto:Nathan.Wachtendonk@green-baywi.gov).

Golf Outing: **Gary Blazek** at (608) 821-3957 or [gbla@vierbicher.com](mailto:gbla@vierbicher.com).

Whova app and Registration: **Jeff Mazanec** at (920) 843-5734 or [Jeff.Mazanec@raSmith.com](mailto:Jeff.Mazanec@raSmith.com).





*Wisconsin Chapter Strategic Planning Team Members: Standing (L-R): Eric Dundee, Dave Lawry, Ela Lodzinski, Bo Mills, John Edlebeck, Jim Hessling, Nathan Wachtendonk, Lee Igl, Bob Givens. Sitting (L-R): Rick Eilertson, Jennifer Barlas, Jeff Mazanec, Kamron Nash.*

## Chapter Strategic Planning Update

*By Eric Dundee, Wisconsin Chapter President; Director of Wastewater Ops and Reliability, Madison Metro Sewerage*

On Sunday, Feb. 5, members of the Chapter Executive Committee and committee chairs gathered in Sturgeon Bay to discuss an update to the Chapter's strategic plan. The afternoon was led by two past National APWA presidents: **Bo Mills**, Germantown, Ten., and **Dave Lawry**, Arlington Heights, Il. (proud Northwoods property owner.) They worked with the group to identify areas of success and areas where we would like to improve. Ultimately, the group developed our focus and summarized our priorities.

1. Develop a strategic plan and activities to work toward goals for the next 1-3 years.
2. Maintain value by providing education, networking, and member professional growth opportunities.
3. Improve the Chapter's voice in advocacy for public works support at the local, state, and federal level.
4. Be an inclusive Chapter promoting a welcom-

ing environment for all and equal educational opportunities for both professionals and frontline workers.

5. Be a Chapter that models the way. Do this by:
  - Providing well-run conferences, networking events, and social events.
  - Having financial sustainability.
  - Developing and maintaining partnerships with like-minded associations.
  - Recognizing exceptional achievements in public works with a strong awards program.
  - Understanding it takes everyone. We are a volunteer association and it takes people, agencies, and companies to support the Chapter both financially and with time.

To hear more about the work being done to update the strategic plan, make sure to attend the Spring Conference. During Thursday morning's opening session, **Sean O'Dell**, Region V Director, and I will present on National APWA and Chapter efforts. 📌



## Why Should I Become an APWA Emerging Leader?

*By Chris Tippery, Chair, Leadership & Management Committee; Senior Project Manager, raSmith*

To promote the personal growth and development, as well as leadership skills within the individual's own organization and our Chapter, the Wisconsin Chapter of APWA developed the Emerging Public Works Leader Program (EPWLP). This program is aligned with APWA National's program of the same name and allows our Chapter representatives an opportunity to learn about themselves, how they relate to others, and how they can grow and develop their own skills and make major contributions to organizations in which they participate. While our Chapter is filled with outstanding leaders from the Executive Committee to the Technical and Standing Committees, we are always looking for our members to take our message to new participants or to expand upon the contributions that APWA makes in Wisconsin.

If you meet the criteria, consider applying to the Program! It is beneficial for your career, your organization and the Wisconsin Chapter, and includes a trip to San Diego for PWX 2023 in August, which isn't a bad perk either.

Applications for the 2023 EPWLP are now currently available on the APWA Wisconsin Chapter Website, found on the Leadership & Management Committee page: <http://wisconsin.apwa.net/PageDetails/7487>. We ask that you, or someone within your organization, consider applying to the Program. It provides a lifelong benefit, new relationships and friendships and will benefit both you as an individual and any organization in which you participate.

**Applications are due on April 20, 2023.**



### **President's Comments** (Cont.'d from page 1)

There are a variety of ways to take a role in the Chapter, whether it be more formally by joining a committee or nominating a project or person for a chapter award, or informally by participating at a conference. The goal is for our Chapter to be made up of public works professionals looking to strike the balance—"get out what you put in." If you have any interest, I encourage you to take a small step by asking about opportunities and seeing where best you, your staff, or agency could help.

As we move forward in 2023, my time as Chapter president gets shorter and shorter. At the Spring Conference I will prepare to pass the gavel to our next Chapter president. Instead of riding off into the sunset, I want to double down on my commitment and look forward to continuing to work with the great group of Chapter leaders and committees. Thank you to all who have made this a joyful and successful experience.

Here's to a successful 2023!





*Judging at the competition: (left to right) Jim Hessling, Kami Hessling, Kamron Nash.*

## 2023 Future Cities Competition

*By Jim Hessling*

On Jan. 21, 2023, the 2023 Regional Future City Competition took place at the Milwaukee School of Engineering Kern Center, and Wisconsin APWA was there. The Chapter is an event sponsor along with being a special awards sponsor. This special award is given to a group of students who best identify how they handle waste and recycling in their community. This year, 49 teams competed at the competition, with the winner moving on and competing in the national competition in Washington, D.C. Feb. 17-23, 2023.

This competition, sponsored by STEM Forward, introduces middle-school students to engineering while they create a city of the future. The students build a to-scale model of their city using recycled materials and gave a five-to-seven minute presentation to a panel of STEM professionals.

For special awards like ours, Best Waste Management & Recycling Award, students give a short presentation on how they handle waste and



*GLASK City of Horning Middle School.*

recycling activities in their city. Many of these presentations are well thought out and creative. The winner of this year's Best Waste Management & Recycling Award went to GLASK City of Horning Middle School of Waukesha, Wis. Congratulations!

☞Page 16 (Future Cities)

## News from National



## North American Snow Conference April 16-19, 2023 | CHI Health Center | Omaha, Nebraska

**T**he 2023 Snow Conference has it all, from expert-led snow and ice education sessions to an exhibit floor full of vendors to show you the latest winter maintenance solutions for your community. Make plans now to join your peers and take advantage of everything the Snow Conference has to offer.

### Education Program

APWA's goal for the Snow Education Program is to create an event where you can make meaningful connections and discover and produce game-changing insights and solutions.

APWA knows the challenges and opportunities facing public works are unprecedented. The speed of social and technological change places an enormous responsibility on you to proactively provide and maintain the infrastructure needed for your community's growth and well-being.

You need a Snow experience that will help you gain new perspectives, exchange ideas, and participate in important and thought-provoking discussions on the shape of things to come.

We need you to arrive in Omaha prepared to ask the essential questions and share your views and ideas.

### Start Thinking Now About the Following:

- What challenges are you facing that a solution seems out of reach?
- What leadership qualities, skills, and resources are needed to lead and manage the modern

public works department?

- What innovations and solutions have your agency implemented that would help the whole profession provide better public works services?
- What are your blind spots? Are you open to fresh and broader perspectives?
- What is your vision for the future of public works?
- Can innovation be learned?
- What's coming? Do you have any hunches or visions for what the next technological advancement will be?
- How should we be providing public works infrastructure and services that are resilient and sustainable?

Don't stop there—what else is on your mind? We're counting on you to show up eager to ask questions and to join your colleagues in imagining the future your communities deserve!

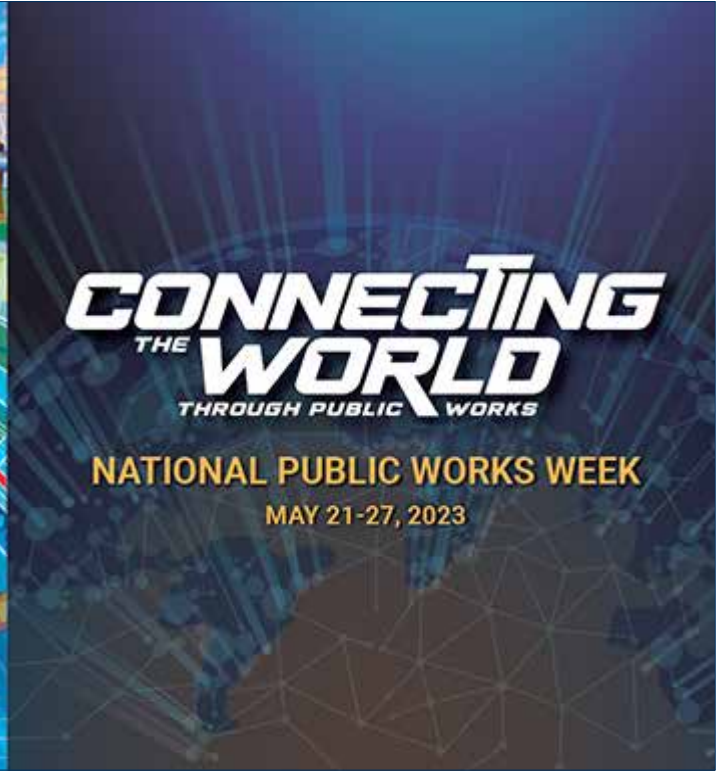
APWA is committed to helping you learn from each other, and the 2023 Snow Conference Education Program will include opportunities for you to make intentional connections.

### For More Information:

- Link to the Conference Schedule:  
<https://s23.a2zinc.net/clients/apwa/Snow23/Public/Sessions.aspx>
- Link to the Registration Page:  
[https://snow.apwa.net/Snow/event\\_details.aspx?Event\\_Tabs=5#Event\\_Tabs](https://snow.apwa.net/Snow/event_details.aspx?Event_Tabs=5#Event_Tabs)



## News from National



## National Public Works Week May 21-27, 2022

**A**PWA is proud to announce the theme “Connecting the World Through Public Works” for the 2023 National Public Works Week poster. Public works is the thread that connects us all, no matter where we live in the world. Every public works professional strives to improve the quality of life for the community they serve, leading to healthier, happier communities.

The “Connecting the World Through Public Works” theme highlights the way public works professionals connect us physically, through infrastructure, and inspirationally, through service to their communities, whether as first responders, or daily workers carrying out their duties with pride.

Public works connectors help keep communities strong by providing an infrastructure of services in transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater treatment, public buildings and spaces, parks and

grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waste, and right-of-way management. They are what make our communities great places to live and work. Join us in celebrating the quiet work these professionals do that makes life better for all of us.

Purchase your 2023 National Public Works Week poster from the APWA Store.

Member Price: \$15.00

Non-Member Price: \$20.00

Visit <https://www.apwa.net/Store/detail.aspx?id=PSTR23> to purchase.

### Poster Formats

This year’s exciting poster is available in a number of sizes and formats, including banners on websites, social media pages (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter), the print version, and more.

👁️ Page 10 (Public Works Week)



*Dan Helm, Village of Saukville.*

## Missing PWMI Certificate Recipient Photo

In January, the article titled “Seven Public Works Leaders Complete the APWA Public Works Management Institute” included six photos. (The seventh picture of Dan Helm missed the editorial deadline.)

Not to be remiss, we did receive the photo and am publishing it now. Better late than never! 📸

### Public Works Week (Cont.'d from page 9)



### History

Since 1960, APWA has sponsored National Public Works Week. Across North America, our more than 30,000 members in the U.S. and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life.

The National APWA Public Works Week area includes a link to the [“Virtual NPWW How-To Guide,”](#) which is full of ideas you can use to celebrate remotely with your communities.

### About the Artist: Robert Ball

Rob has been a practicing graphic designer since 2000 and has illustrated throughout his career. His work carries the clean lines of graphic design with a human and humorous side influenced by living in London for fifteen years and capturing the characters he sees around him. Rob’s brain is a dumping ground for popular culture and his work carries the dynamism of comic-book art mixed with an eye for the absurd, influenced by a misspent youth pouring over the pages of Marvel comics and 2000AD. He grew a loyal fanbase through his project for HBO’s “Game of Thrones” in which he illustrated a poster for each episode. 📸





*Front-line City of Milwaukee warrior filling potholes.*

### A Driver's Lament

(Sung to "Stuck In the Middle With You" by Stealers Wheel)  
 Well I don't know why I drove here today,  
 Got the feeling this rain ain't goin' away,  
 I get so scared I'm gonna blow out my tire,  
 Can't be late or I just might get fired.  
 Potholes to the left of me,  
 Potholes to the right,  
 Here I am, stuck inside Goodyear again.  
 Yes, I'm stuck inside Goodyear again.

*A frontline worker from the City of Milwaukee patches potholes.*

## Potholes to the Left of Me, Potholes to the Right...

*By Nancy Cavanaugh, Chapter Newsletter Editor*

It's Springtime again and along with the flowers, the potholes are in full bloom.

### A Blight for Both Drivers and Public Works

According to Consumer Affairs, respondents polled on the condition of their states' roads gave Wisconsin a rating of 5 out of 10 on average. That means Wisconsin ranks as having the fifth worst roads in the U.S.

*Drivers cited potholes as a significant problem.*

Their ongoing hardships are confirmed by the 2021 ASCE Infrastructure Report Card, which gave Wisconsin roads a grade of C. More than one third of the roads are in "fair or below condition," and this is likely to deteriorate over the next decade. The roughness index was above 170 inches per mile (in poor condition and hard on vehicles) for about 29 percent of the urban roads.

Drivers spend on average \$733 each year due to excessive wear and tear. According to First Rate Auto Service, Milwaukee, potholes can cause major damage to tires and suspension systems. To date, they have received more than 1,000 calls about pothole damage repair. The City of Milwaukee has received more than 2,000 and reports it takes three days to respond. Statewide, Stacker, an online news aggregator, analyzed data from Twitter—where frustrated

drivers freely complain—and discovered that in Wisconsin there were four pothole complaints for every 620 miles of road.

Conditions are worse for urban drivers, where 55 percent of the roads are rated in poor condition (according to TRIP). Damage to vehicles can cost more than \$2,000 per year.

### Is Help on the Way?

Because of a lack of funding, WisDOT has had to resort to resurfacing most non-interstate roadways. Although that has raised condition ratings, this is not a sustainable practice.

Worse yet, funding has not kept pace with the need. WisDOT has reported that a \$180 million annual increase over the next 10 years would be required to maintain current pavement conditions.

So what's a municipality to do when faced with angry drivers with legitimate complaints about potholes?

- A major contributor to potholes is salt. Last winter, Wisconsin used more than 525,000 tons of salt on icy roadways. Currently, various municipalities are experimenting with salt brine, which keeps snow from being compacted by

☞Page 14 (Potholes)



# Public Works Classes Offered by UW-Madison Transportation Information Center (TIC)



*By Ben Jordan, Director, Wisconsin Transportation Information Center*

These public works supervision and management classes will provide you and your organization an opportunity to:

- Build a more effective management team;
- Enhance supervision skills and management practices;
- Prepare staff to grow in their career and take on new responsibilities.

Classes lead to two public works certificates offered in cooperation with the Wisconsin Chapter of APWA: the Public Works Supervisory Academy (PWSA) certificate, composed of nine, one-day classes (54 class hours

in total), and the Public Works Management Institute (PWMI) certificate, composed of 15 classes (90 class hours in total), including the nine courses in PWSA, plus an additional 36 class hours in five courses that focus on more advanced management-oriented courses. The PWMI certificate is recognized by National APWA as meeting requirements for Leadership Excellence in Public Works.

You may enroll in individual classes without enrolling in the Academy or Institute. Academy and Institute classes may be taken in any order, except that

the PWMI certificate requires a Capstone course that must be taken as the last class in the series.

No academic experience is required to participate in either program. Each class is normally offered at least once each year. Currently, classes are being offered online and in person.

For additional PWSA & PWMI information, go to: <https://interpro.wisc.edu/tic/public-works-certificates/>

You can register for currently scheduled classes at: <https://interpro.wisc.edu/tic/>

## **Municipal Engineering Fundamentals for Non-Engineers (PWMI)**

April 14, April 21, April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19

Online 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. each live session

Course #C481

**Instructors:** David Barber and Ben Jordan

Learn about basic engineering concepts and methods used by public works engineers to design, construct, operate, and maintain municipal infrastructure. Fee of \$335 if you register using code PW660.

## **Human Resources (HR) Basics for Non-HR Professionals (PWSA)**

May 11

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Grainger Hall, UW-Madison, Madison

<https://sbdc.wisc.edu/manage-your-business/human-resources-hr-basics-for-non-hr-professionals/>

**Instructors:** Tracy Niesen Breunig and Brittary Hanson (offered in partnership with UW-Madison Small Business Development Center) Gain awareness of common human resources issues encountered by supervisors and managers and learn how to effectively address issues and

comply with employment-related laws. Fee of \$195 if you register using code HRBASICS2023.

## **Budgeting for Public Works (PWMI)**

June 1

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Dane County Extension, Madison  
Course #C887

**Instructor:** Michael Daun

Learn to prepare and analyze an operating budget and explore several alternative budget formats and their respective strengths and weaknesses. Review capital fund budgeting, including asset leasing and purchasing pools.✍





*The proposed expansion of I-94 would add a new lane going in each direction and would significantly expand the Stadium Interchange. A six-lane option is also being considered. Source: WisDOT.*

## Milwaukee's I-94 Would be Expanded to Eight Lanes Under State Recommendation

### Activists Support an Effort to Fix—But Not Expand—the Highway

In November 2022, WisDOT issued a new recommendation for a widened Interstate 94 on Milwaukee's west side. The \$1.2 billion project would expand the road from six lanes to eight (four lanes in each direction) along a 3.5-mile stretch that passes the Brewers' American Family Field.

If the project gets federal approval and is funded, construction would begin in 2025.

In its release, State Transportation Secretary Craig Thompson noted the department "placed a high priority on public involvement during the...reevaluation, which resulted in significant changes to the previous proposal."

This comes after more than a decade of data gathering, delays, and public meetings. After the revival of the project by Gov. Tony Evers in 2020, the expansion became politicized by a number of groups opposing the impact of building eight lanes.

#### Expansion vs. Reconstruction

Grouped under the moniker "Fix the Six," opponents maintain that funding for highways

should go toward public transportation as well, which includes local road repair and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

They also argue that highway expansion would not actually achieve its stated goals. They cite studies that show widening a highway does not always reduce congestion. In fact, it may result in the opposite effect of attracting *more* traffic.

This is not to say the opposition doesn't think I-94 doesn't need repair. They simply argue that repaving and safety improvements should be made on the existing six lanes. And the project should involve more than highway expansion—funding should encompass infrastructure and the surrounding neighborhoods. For example, the eight-lane option would displace 11 homes and businesses, while the six-lane reconstruction would affect eight. The estimated cost of the repair/modernization options without adding lanes is between \$800-\$850 million, compared to the \$1.2 billion eight-lane plan. (The difference is more than double the cost of the Milwaukee streetcar,

☞Page 14 (I-94 Expansion)

## **Potholes** (Cont.'d from page 11)



*Before concrete, bricks were used to pave urban streets. Unfortunately, many drivers still grappled with thoroughfares torn up by weather-related damage that turned the streets into obstacle courses. Here, a car is stuck on an open manhole cover while driving on KK in Milwaukee County (circa 1910-20). Note the torn-up bricks to the right in the intersection. Source: Milwaukee Public Library.*

## **I-94 Expansion** (Cont.'d from page 13)

which was debated for years!)

The opposition has requested WisDOT provide an “apples-to-apples” comparison of environmental and community impacts of the eight-lane versus the six-lane options. To date, the only option the WisDot seriously considered was the expansion choice. And when asked to explain at a public meeting their assertion that highway expansion spurs economic development in the community, they couldn’t answer the question.

So what’s more desirable, highway expansion or community development as well?

According to State Rep. Daniel Riemer of Milwaukee, “Urban streets are effective because they allow for car traffic, for bus traffic, for pedestrian traffic, bike traffic, increasingly, and they’re integrated pretty naturally into lots of different business, cultural and residential ways of doing things. You can really only do one thing on a freeway, which is drive...A stretch of freeway, there’s just no life along it.”

And if you’re in favor of creating jobs, why not repair city streets? According to the Wisconsin Policy Forum, more than half the city streets in Milwaukee

vehicle traffic, which turns snow into ice. Brine is more efficient and coats roadways better than salt or sand.

- Did you know that potholes can form any time of year? It begins when water seeps into the soil under the pavement. WisDOT works with county highway maintenance departments to fix potholes on the state highway system. That means both need to coordinate their road maintenance efforts year round.
- In 1998, WisDOT established the Wisconsin Highway Research Program in collaboration with UW-Madison to improve the state’s highways. Their 2021-2025 Strategic Plan outlines their goals for discovering solutions to deliver a “safer, more sustainable, efficient and affordable...transportation system.”

The next time you grab your car keys, remember:

1. This is Wisconsin, a state known for temperature extremes; and
2. Potholes have been frustrating innocent motorists for more 100 years.

On second thought, maybe you should just take



*The East-West Corridor of I-94 in Milwaukee along the “pinch point” by the cemetery. Source: Coalition for More Responsible Transportation.*

are rated in poor or fair condition. (See “Potholes” on page 11.) The City needs an average of \$76 million per year to repair streets and bridges. That would generate plenty of good-paying jobs.

Two public meetings were held in December. The deadline for public comments was Jan. 31, 2023. 

*The Chapter newsletter will publish project updates as needed.*



## Award-Winning Renovation Tour of Library Featured at the Spring Conference in Eau Claire

*By Nancy Cavanaugh, Newsletter Editor*

A major attraction at the Spring Conference will be a tour of the City Hall/Library complex. Built in 1916, the Eau Claire City Hall cost \$72,000 (\$1.7 million in current dollars). The library, which opened in 1903, is architecturally related, using Bedford limestone and marble from Carthage, Mo., on the exterior. In 1976 it was converted to office space after another library opened a block north. A glass-fronted addition was also built to connect the building to the original City Hall.



*Old postcard of the original library building.*

In 2017, a \$6.4-million, three-year renovation project kicked off to remodel both buildings. To bring back the classic grandeur, drop ceilings were torn out and worn carpeting removed to reveal beautiful marble and maple floors. Soaring plaster and pressed tin ceilings have been restored, and architectural elements such as fireplaces, columns, and woodwork were uncovered and reconditioned.

In 2020, the renovation won an APWA Project of the Year Award for Small Cities/Rural Communities.



*Hidden fireplace on the second floor.*



*City Attorney offices after restoration. Note the green marble fireplace, which was similar to one that was hidden on the second floor (see above).*



*North Conference Room – original wood.*



*Original stained-glass skylight.*

## Future Cities (Cont. 'd from page 7)

Volunteers donate their time as judges throughout the competition to help select the winner and a handful of additional volunteers act as mentors for teams. The volunteer judges for the Best Waste Management Award this year were **Kamron Nash**, **Kami Hessling** and **Jim Hessling**. The Wisconsin APWA Chapter is proud to again sponsor this event

along with presenting an award. We have to remember that these students will be our future and that they need support and encouragement to make the world a better place.

Please consider mentoring students along with participating in next year's event to make their experience an even better one. 🙌

## 2023 Future Cities Sponsors



## 2023 CALENDAR

May 3-5	Spring Conference	Eau Claire/Altoona	Rick Eilertson
May 21-27	National Public Works Week		
July 26	Summer Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser	The Oaks Cottage Grove	Aaron Jahncke
August	Snowplow Rodeo/Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Training	Appleton, WI	
August 27-30	APWA PWX	San Diego, CA	
September 28	Southeast Wisconsin 8th Annual Public Works Expo	Greenfield, WI	
November 1-3	Fall Conference	Lake Geneva Grand Geneva	Shelly Billingsley

Please refer to the <http://wisconsin.apwa.net> website for more detailed program and registration information.