



Many Miles to Go

**Like other counties,
La Crosse struggles to keep up**



"It's going to take all levels of government stepping up to fix our aging infrastructure..."

On a day in late April, most La Crosse County Highway Department employees are out performing maintenance on the more than 280 miles of county highways.

Keeping these roads together gets harder each year as almost 50% of these aging county highways need major work.

According to the county highway department's 2018 capital plan, identified county highway and bridge needs exceed \$100 million. With the county borrowing between \$2.5-\$3 million a year for these capital improvements, the department works hard to secure grants and money from other sources. But that still leaves a current backlog that could take 20-30 years to fund.

Money received from the state in the form of General Transportation Aids, combined with the local property tax levy, barely cover maintenance.

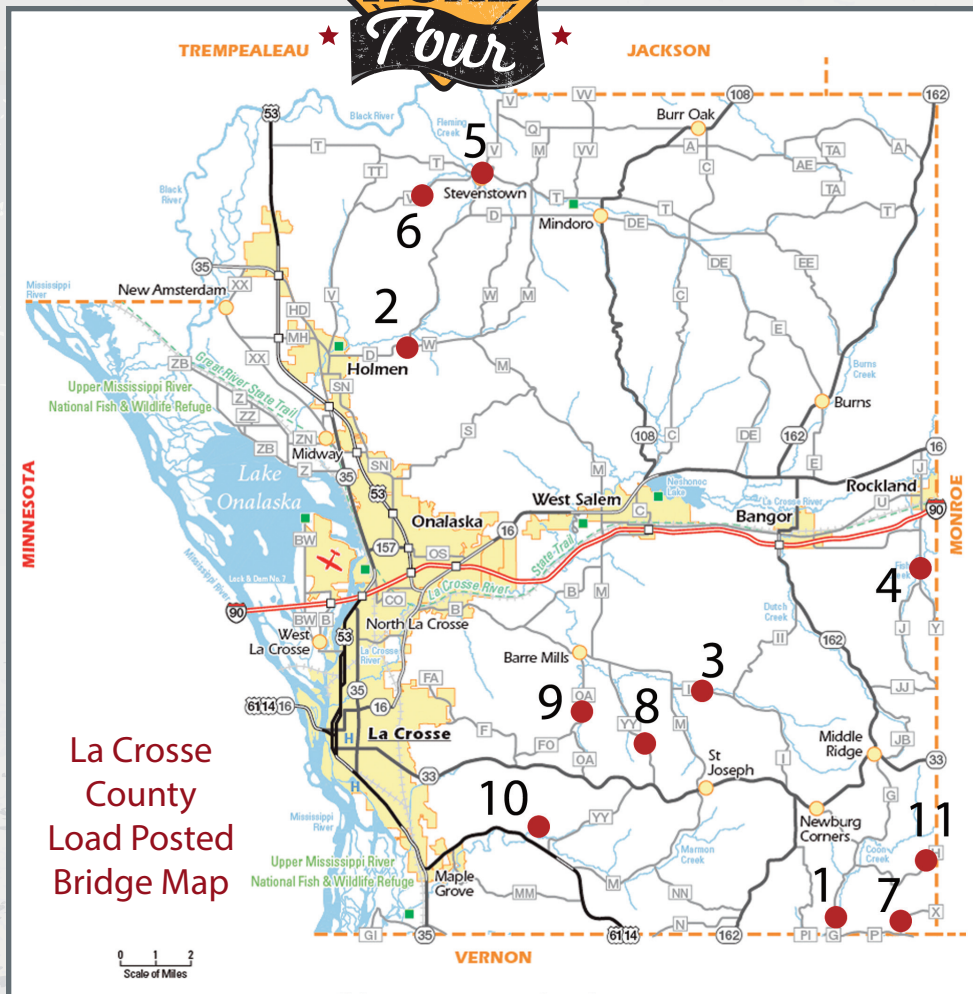
"It's going to take all levels of government stepping up to fix our aging infrastructure," said Ron Chamberlain, La Crosse County highway commissioner. "It will likely require local governments to have more tools in the tool box to meet their responsibilities and help the state address this serious issue."

"We were glad to receive increased funding from the state in the last budget, but it will only cover the cost of paving 1/4 mile or 4 miles of sealcoat," Chamberlain continued.

"We need a more comprehensive plan to fund transportation in Wisconsin."



The Long Way Around



Weight limit signs on a bridge are meant to prevent loads that cause stresses above the safe limit from crossing the bridge. This protects the public and prolongs the life of the bridge until it can be replaced or repaired.

But with some farm equipment and commercial vehicles weighing over 40 tons, this can mean many additional miles for the farmer or commercial hauler, putting more wear and tear on the county's highways.



Bridge	On	Over	Load Posting	Built
1	G	COON CREEK	30	1939
2	D	HALFWAY CREEK	25	1969
3	I	BR BOSTWICK CR	25	1973
4	J	FISH CREEK	20	1959
5	T	FLEMING CREEK	25	1976
6	V	SOUR CREEK	25	1974
7	X	BERGE COULEE CR	40	1930
8	YY	BR BOSTWICK CR	20	1971
9	DRECTAH RD	GARBERS COULEE CR	30	1976
10	BREIDEL COULEE RD	BR MORMON CR	20	1961
11	MUENZENBERGER RD	COON CREEK	15	1947

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