

TRANSPORTATION

INTRODUCTION

The transportation network is the backbone upon which a municipality builds its economy, ensures its access to resources, and provides a critical link for the transport of residents and visitors as well as goods and services. The assessment of the present transportation infrastructure, in addition to identifying future maintenance and development needs, is vital to retain their continued use to the Town.

The following information in this chapter includes data on the various modes of transportation in the Town of Spider Lake including, but not limited to, highways, transit, transportation for persons with disabilities, bicycling, walking, railroads, air transportation, trucking and water transportation.

MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

Highways

The Town of Spider Lake road network consists of 3.8 miles of county highways, 14.75 miles of State trunk highways and 97.89 miles of local roads. The Town utilizes the WisDOT PASER program to maintain an inventory of its local roads and to monitor conditions and improvements of its roads. Ideally, this system will enable the Town to better budget and manage of roads that are in need of repair.

Roads are broken down by a functional classification system that groups roads into classes according to the level of service they provide. Table 3.1 breaks down the functional road classification and Map 3.1 depicts the Town of Spider Lake Functional Road Classification.

Classification Type	Mileage
Principal Arterials	0.0
Minor Arterials	14.75
Collectors	18.86
Local Roads	82.83
Total	116.44

There are four sites where the Wisconsin Department of Transportation monitors annual average daily traffic counts. The last traffic count was conducted in 2004. The following were ascertained using the 2005 Wisconsin Highway Traffic Volume Data book.

	<u>2004 Traffic Count</u>
Site 1: STH 77, between Murphy Blvd. & Heinemann’s Rd	1200
Site 2: STH 77, junction with CTH OO	1500
Site 3: STH 77, junction with CTH A	800
Site 4: STH 77, 1 mile E. of junction with CTH S	590

Table 3.2 depicts past AADT numbers for sites located in the Town of Spider Lake.

Table 3.2: AADT									
	1966	1968	1973	1979	1982	1985	1991	1995	2004
Recording Site 1:	No data available								1,200
Recording Site 2:	320	410	760	1,130	980	1,170	1,600	1,600	1,500
Recording Site 3:	270	210	550	600	560	600	750	1,100	800
Recording Site 4:	190	150	350	450	330	350	480	670	590

Site 1: STH 77, between Murphy Blvd. & Heinemann’s Rd

Site 2: STH 77, junction with CTH “OO”

Site 3: STH 77, junction with CTH “A”

Site 4: STH 77, 1 mile E. of junction with CTH “S”

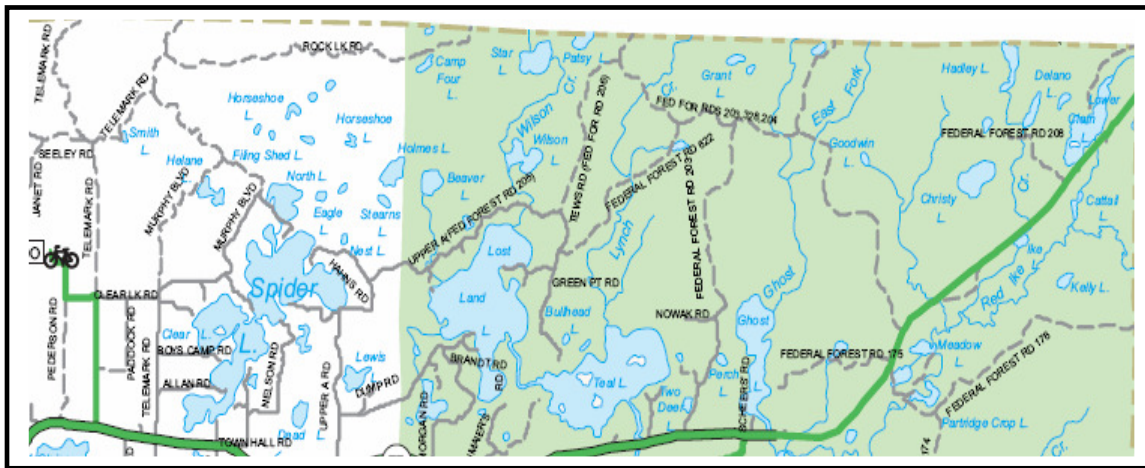
Public Transit

The Town of Spider Lake has limited access to public transit opportunities at this time. Currently, the Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Transit Commission and the Senior Resource Center of Sawyer County operates transit services in the Town of Spider Lake.

Bicycling

The Wisconsin Bicycle Federation in conjunction with the WisDOT has compiled bicycling maps, by county, that highlight bicycling conditions on select roadways. Figure 3.1 reveals that in the Town of Spider Lake, CTH OO and STH 77 (shown in green) are considered to be the roads that have the best conditions for biking in the Town.

Figure 3.1: Town of Spider Lake Bicycle Map



Walking

Pedestrian travel in the Town of Spider Lake is limited due to roads with narrow shoulder areas, high speed limits, dust on gravel and earth roads and lack of sidewalks. Walking for anything other than physical and recreational enjoyment is not likely because the low-density development pattern of the Town and the fact that nearly all goods and services are located several miles away in nearby cities. Walking to places for work, shopping or entertainment is also not very likely.

Train Travel

There are no operational railroads in the Town of Spider Lake.

Air Transportation

No passenger flights are available to the residents of Spider Lake from within Sawyer County. The nearest airports providing regular scheduled passenger flights to domestic and international destinations are located in Ironwood (limited number of flights); Duluth, Eau Claire and Minneapolis-St. Paul. At present, there are 5 public and 11 private airfields within 30 miles of the Town of Spider Lake. Their location and status is listed in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3: Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer County Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake			
Ashland County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake			
Airfield / Airport	Location	Owner / Operator	Status
JFK Memorial	City of Ashland; T47N, R4W, S. 18.	City of Ashland	Public
Hospital Helipad	City of Ashland; Memorial Hospital	Memorial Hospital	Private, helipad
Glidden Municipal	Jacobs Twp.; T42N, R2W, S. 13.	Town of Jacobs	Public
Clam Lake Airfield	Gordon Twp.; T43N, R4W, S. 32	Don Vecchie	Private
Mellen Municipal	City of Mellen, T44N R2W, S. 5	City of Mellen	Public
Bayfield County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake			
Airfield / Airport	Location	Owner / Operator	Status
Cable Union Airfield	Cable Twp.; T43N, R7W, S. 21	Town of Cable et. al.	Public
Eau Claire Lakes	Barnes Twp.; T45N, R9W, S. 28	Jerry Freirmood	Private
Bayfield County Airfield	Iron River Twp.; T47 N, R9W, S. 2	John Pearson	Public / Private
Bayfield County Hospital	City of Washburn, T49N, R4W, S. 33	Bayfield County Hospital	Private, helipad
Fourmile Creek	Washburn Twp.; T49N, R5W, S. 22	Richard Westling	Private
Batten/Lake Owen Sea Plane Base	Drummond Twp.	(no owner listed)	Water landing
Sawyer County Airports/Airfields within 30 Miles of the Town of Spider Lake			
Airfield / Airport	Location	Owner / Operator	Status
Sawyer County Airport	Hayward Twp.; T41N, R9W, S. 24	Sawyer County	Public
Rainbow Airport	Ojibwa Twp.; T39N, R6W	Wayne Carpenter	Private (turf strip)
Lake Chippewa Field	Hunter Twp., T40N, R7W	(No owner listed)	Private (turf strip)
Round Lk. Seaplane Base	Round Lake Twp.; T41N, R8W	John Frisbe	Private (water)
Kitty-Wompus Airport	Weirgor Twp., T37N, R7W	Jordan Arvold	Private (turf)

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics.

Trucking & Water Transportation

Trucking in and around the Town of Spider Lake is done through the highway network, and is typically subject to road weight restrictions depending on the time of year. Water transportation in the Town is primarily for recreational purposes.

Multi-Use Trails

Within the Town of Spider Lake, there is designated access on Town roads for both snowmobiles and ATV’s with ATV’s limited to those roads defined by Town of Spider Lake ordinances through county forest. A system of designated snowmobile trails within the Town utilize county

and national forest lands as well as easements across private property and trail segments across lakes.

Non-motorized recreation trails include a portion of the American Birkebeiner trail, numerous Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) trails both on and off Town roads, national forest designated cross-country ski trails, and hunter walking trails on both county and national forest lands.

The west fork of the Chippewa River also provides excellent canoeing opportunities at higher water levels.

The vast network of county and national forest roads that are multi jurisdictional with the Town of Spider Lake also are used for horseback riding, general bike riding, and driving for pleasure.

APPLICABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

TRANSLINKS 21

TransLinks 21 is a multi-modal transportation plan for Wisconsin's 21st century. WisDOT completed the development of the 25-year plan in 1994 as a Statewide Transportation Plan to facilitate the efficient and economic movement of people and goods. Separate transportation modes are more precisely defined in the following transportation mode plans ending in "2020" below.

Connections 2030

Connections 2030 is the second generation Statewide Transportation Plan after Translinks 21, and is now in progress. The planning process will update Wisconsin's comprehensive, long-range multi-modal transportation plan. It will provide a broad planning framework for the next 25 years, guiding transportation policies, programs, and investments through 2030.

Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020

The *Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020* focuses on the 11, 800 miles of State Trunk Highway routes in Wisconsin. The plan does not identify any projects in the Town of Spider Lake in the next 20 years, and no conflicts with the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

The portion of STH-77 through Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, from just east of CTH-A in Sawyer Co to STH-13 in Ashland Co, is designated as the "Great Divide National Scenic Highway." This designation, established on November 1, 1988 by the U.S. Forest Service, runs for 29 miles through an undeveloped portion of the national forest

CORRIDORS 2020

Corridors 2020 sets criteria for selected routes that go beyond traditional highway planning with the intent to enhance and improve all two-lane and four-lane highways connecting cities of 5,000 inhabitants or more. This does not pertain to the Town of Spider Lake, as no corridor 2020 primary or secondary route passes through the Town. No conflicts with the Town of Spider Lake Comprehensive Plan exist at this time.

Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020

The *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020* (1998) presents a blueprint for improving and expanding bicycle transportation routes in the state. There are no plans to expand state bicycle routes into the Town of Spider Lake.

Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020

This plan provides a statewide framework to increase walking and to promote pedestrian safety. The plan establishes goals, objectives, and actions regarding the provision of pedestrian accommodations that could be implemented. The plan also serves to help communities identify actions they can take to establish pedestrian travel as a viable, convenient, and safe transportation choice throughout Wisconsin.

Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020

The Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020 provides a framework for the preservation and enhancement of a system of public-use airports adequate to meet current and future aviation needs of the State of Wisconsin. There are no airports or airfields in the Town of Spider Lake, and none are planned in the next 20 years.

Wisconsin State Rail Plan 2020

This plan provides the policy framework for the preservation and enhancement of the Wisconsin State Rail System. The plan also defines the rail system's role in the movement of people and goods within the context of Wisconsin's multi-modal transportation system. There are no railroads in the Town of Spider Lake, and none are planned in the next 20 years.