



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Jim Sullivan  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

October 3, 2007

Senator Robert Cowles  
319 South, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator Cowles:

Thank you for your letter, dated September 24, 2007, requesting that we direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to review the State's bridge inspection program, which is administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

After discussing the request with the State Auditor, we have directed the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct a limited-scope review of this program. At our request, Bureau staff will contact DOT staff who administer the program in order to:

- confirm compliance with the requirement that all bridges be inspected at least once every two years;
- review district staff oversight of bridge maintenance work identified in the inspection process;
- analyze the inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation history of a limited sample of bridges that were rated "structurally deficient" in 2000; and
- review the extent to which current average daily traffic count information is included in inspection reports and DOT data to ensure available federal funding is maximized.

When it has completed its review, the Bureau will prepare a letter report on its findings.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact our offices.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Sullivan, Co-chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

cc: Frank Busalacchi, Secretary  
Department of Transportation

Janice Mueller  
State Auditor