



Take notice that the City of Ashland Committee of the Whole will meet immediately following the adjournment of the City Council Meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Main Street W. Ashland, WI, to consider and act upon the following agenda.

To attend the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/500263957>

Or dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1-877-309-2073 Access Code: 500-263-957

Please contact the Clerk's office if you require accommodations to attend the meeting.

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Council President's Report**
4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
 - A. **The Condition of City of Ashland Roads (Public Works)**
 - B. **Potential List of Appropriations for Senator Tammy Baldwin to be Considered in the 2026 State Budget (Administrator)**
 - C. **Potential Discussion Items for Upcoming Council Retreat Agenda (Mayor)**
5. **Items for Future Discussion**
6. **Adjournment**

The City of Ashland does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities.

Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals or individuals with limited English proficiency through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City Clerk's Office at 715-682-7071 (not a TDD telephone number) or FAX: 715-682-7048.

SUBJECT: Discussion on the Condition of City of Ashland Roads (Public Works)

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion Only

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Mayor

CLEARANCES: Public Works Director

EXHIBITS:

1. Funding Scenarios_3.25.2025
2. Pavement Degredation Curve

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: Infrastructure

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Mayor requested that the Public Works Department provide more information on the level of investment needed to sustain the City's street system and the anticipated outcomes of current levels of spending.

The Department is able to model such issues through the use of the Wisconsin Information System for Local Road (WISLR), which requires the assessment of the condition of every block of city streets every two years. Thus, the Department has access to continuously updated information to identify and prioritize local roads for repairs, resurfacing, replacement and maintenance.

WISLR also calculates a "backlog" of needed street repairs based on the condition information. Currently, WISLR estimates that the City's current backlog is \$31.6 million.

WISLR also allows staff to input various levels of investment in street repairs, with the software predicting how overall network condition will change based on the investments.

Based on having 66.7 miles of road, annual investment into the streets should total \$2.7 million. Actual investments are shown below.

Most years have fallen well short of required annual investment and the average value is inflated by the construction of the Ore Dock Access Rd in 2024. Overall, 36% of the funding was provided by a grant. The average amount of City funds represents 26% of the necessary annual investment.

City staff will present results of modeling via WISLR based on different levels of investment by

financing means that are to be determined.

Year	Total Funds	City Funds	Grant Funds
2019	\$416,159	\$416,159	\$0
2020	\$862,029	\$847,029	\$15,000
2021	\$807,294	\$563,802	\$243,492
2022	\$1,227,514	\$644,838	\$582,676
2023	\$587,735	\$587,735	\$0
2024	\$2,730,788	\$1,157,892	\$1,572,896
Average	\$1,105,253	\$702,909	\$402,344

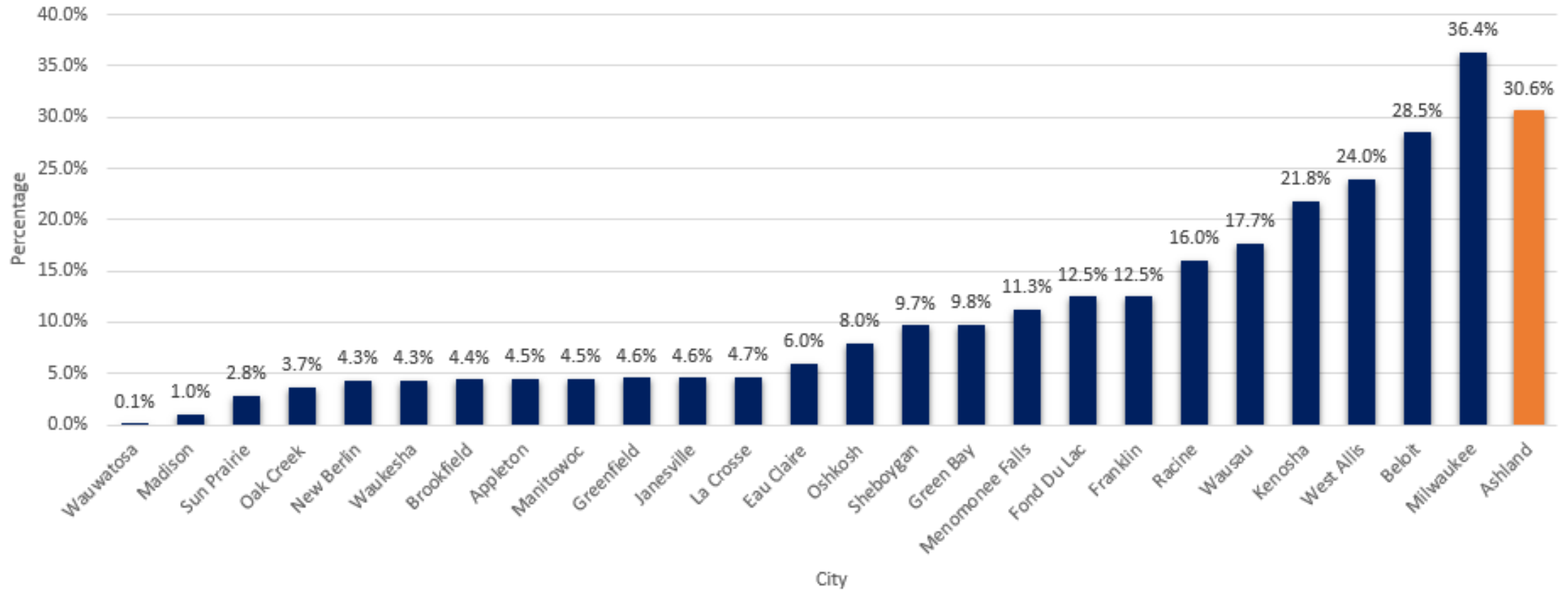
FUNDING SCENARIOS

Wisconsin Information System for Local Road (WISLR)

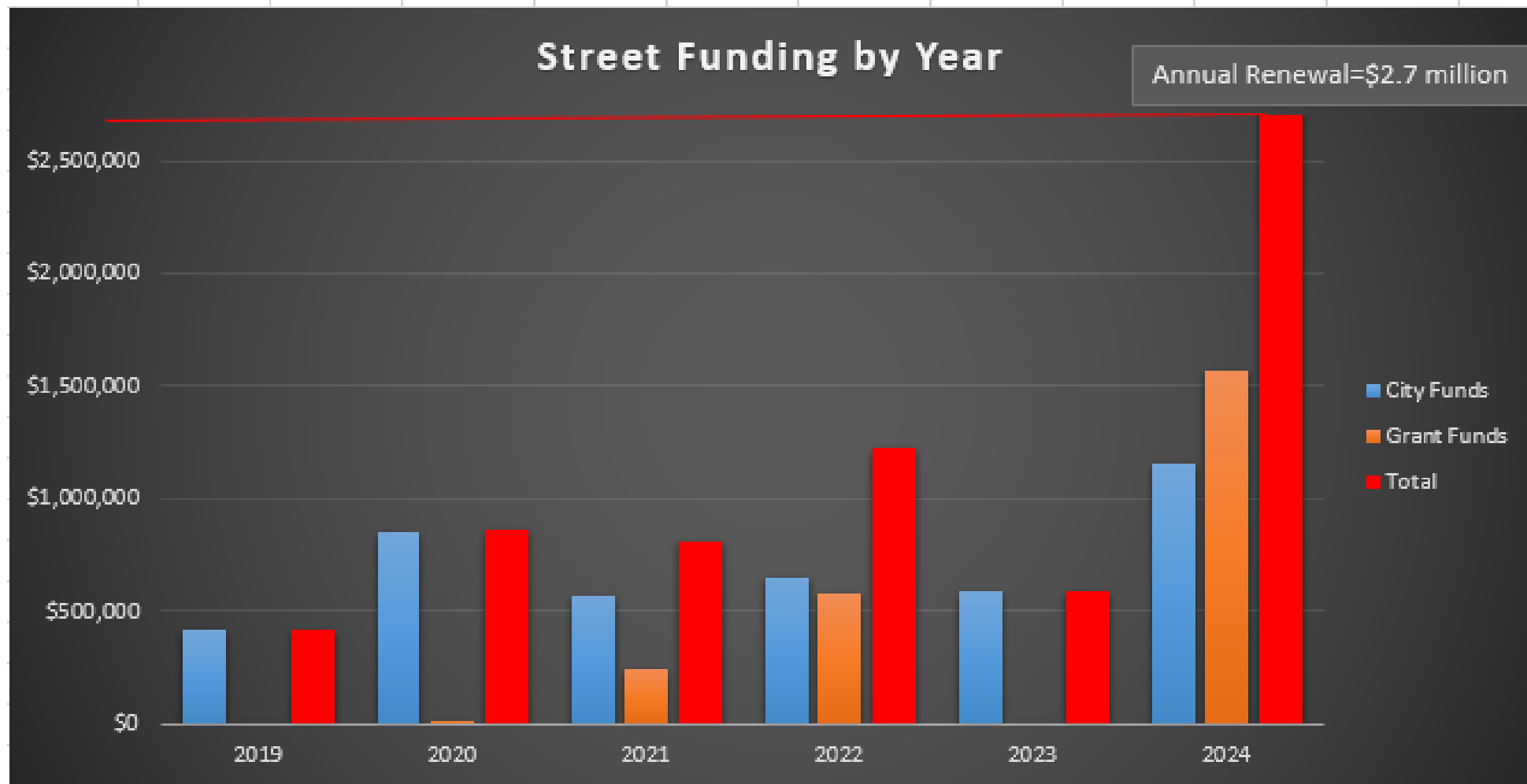
- State tool that helps local governments manage local road data to improve decision making.
- Requires City staff to assess and report the condition of street surfaces every two yrs.
- This data can be used to:
 - (A) estimate the backlog of needed repairs
 - (B) model the impact of investments made in street repairs via a 5 yr spending plan on the condition of street surfaces in the City



Percentage of Cities' Roads Rated Less Than a 4



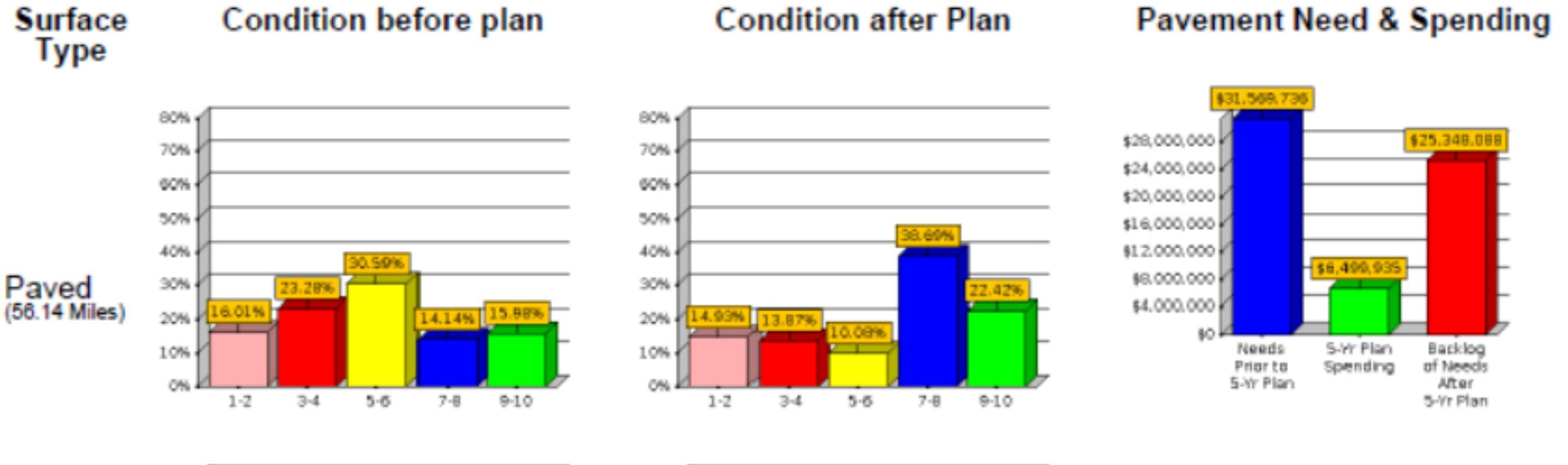
- The City maintains a 66.7 mile streets system.
- The system requires annual investment of \$2.7 million per year.
- About 25% of the City's streets are in "Good" condition or better
- About 30% of the City's streets are in "Poor" condition or worse, which is significantly worse than many Wisconsin municipalities



- Over the past 5 yrs, the City has invested an average of \$1.1 million per year into the Streets system.
- On average, \$700K has been City funds and \$400K has been grant funds.

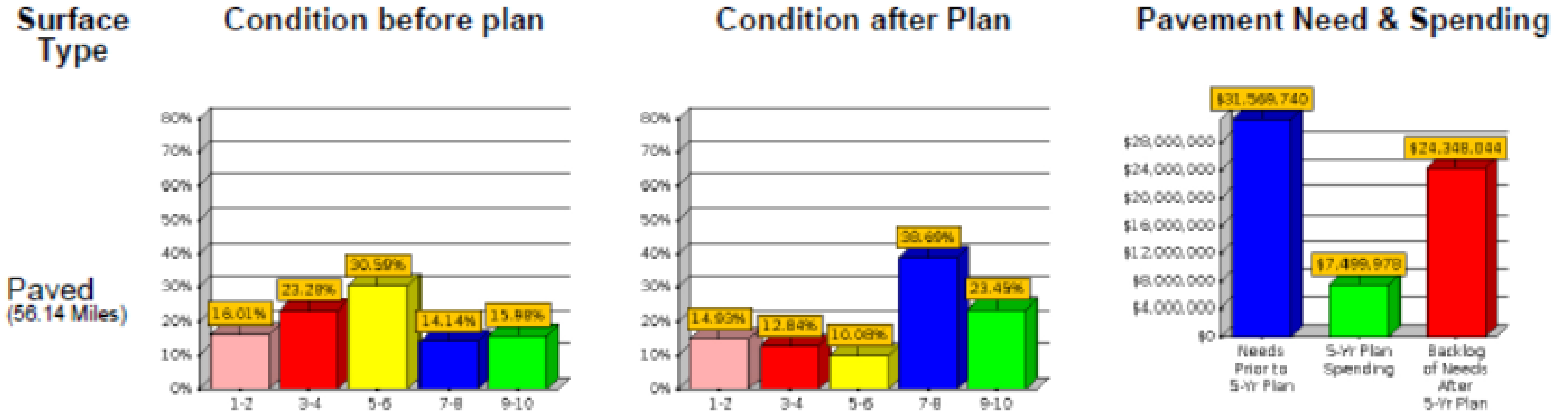
Funding Scenario #1

- A baseline budget of \$1,300,000/yr or \$6.5 million over 5 yrs:
 - Avg. PASER Before: 5.2
 - Avg. PASER After: 5.46



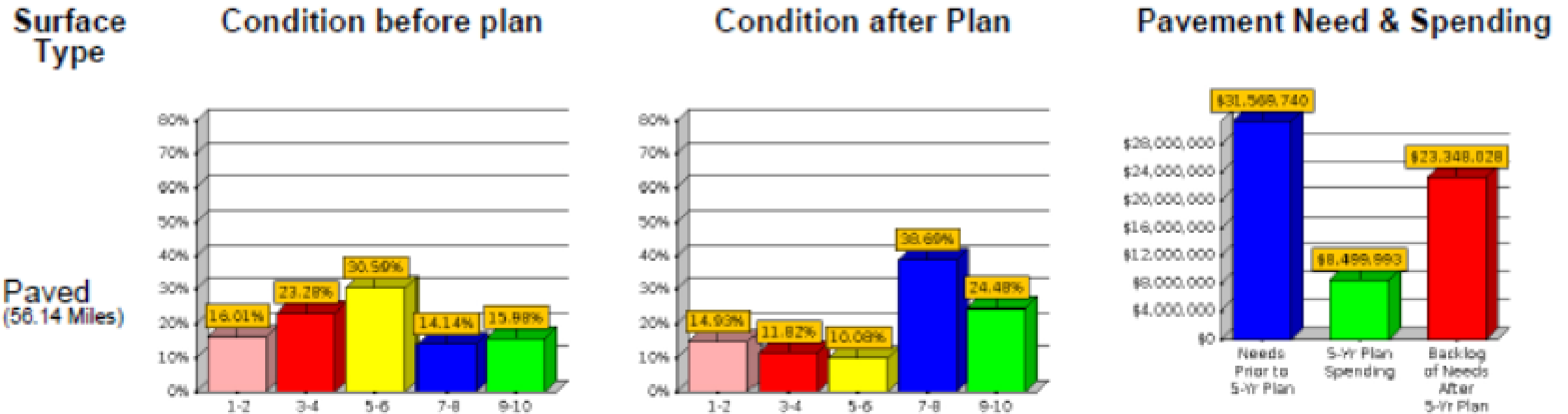
Funding Scenario #2

- A baseline budget of \$1,500,000/yr or \$7.5 million over 5 yrs:
 - Avg. PASER Before: 5.2
 - Avg. PASER After: 5.59



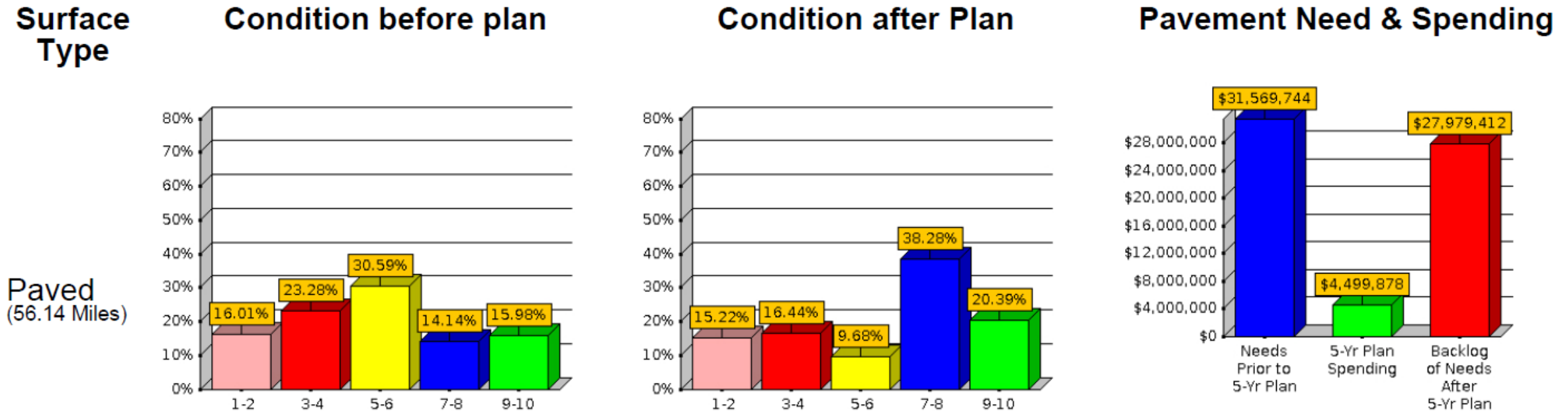
Funding Scenario #3

- A baseline budget of \$1,700,000/yr or \$8.5 million over 5 yrs:
 - Avg. PASER before: 5.2
 - Avg. PASER after: 5.72



Funding Scenario #4

- A baseline budget of \$900,000/yr or \$4.5 million over 5 yrs:
 - Avg. PASER before: 5.2
 - Avg. PASER after: 5.26



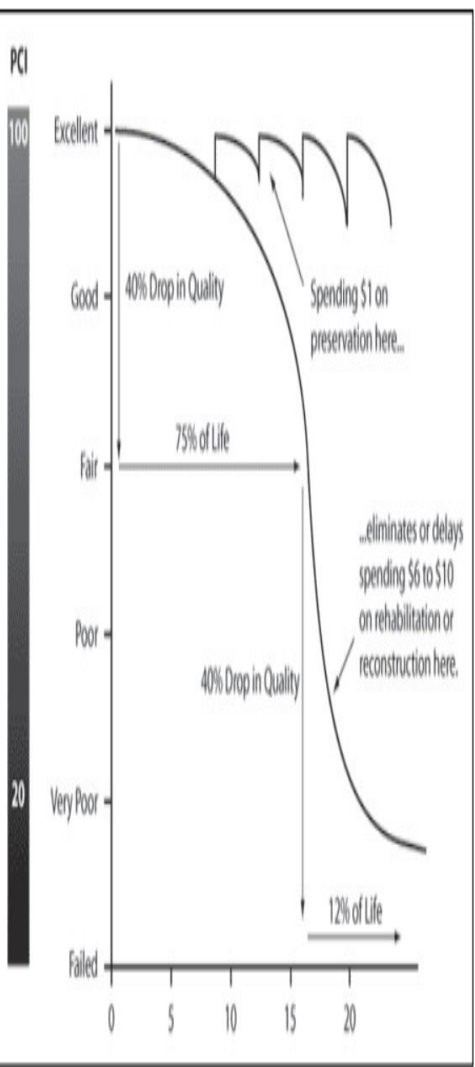


Figure 6 (from the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Asset Management, Pavements and Construction) illustrates the steep deterioration curve commonly seen in pavements once they reach a "poor" condition. Timely preventive and reactive treatments create substantial value by restoring pavements to a high condition and preventing the onset of the rapid deterioration commonly seen in poorly maintained pavements. As noted in Figure 6 and in other FHWA reports, timely preventive and reactive treatments can produce a very high benefit/cost ratio. Conversely, underinvestment leads to the missing of the optimal treatment-timing window for many pavements and leads to their concurrent rapid, non-linear degradation. It is the accelerating, non-linear degradation that underlies the analysis of rapid accumulation of deficient lane miles and the rapid growth in the cost of the backlog, or the accumulation of the "infrastructure deficit"

SUBJECT: Potential List of Appropriations for Senator Tammy Baldwin to be
Considered in the 2026 State Budget (*Administrator*)

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion Only

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Administrator

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS: 1. US Senator Tammy Baldwin Appropriation's
Request

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC
PLAN:**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

US Senator Tammy Baldwin's office is currently accepting appropriations requests for Fiscal Year 2026. We were encouraged to consider submitting a request for any applicable projects that could benefit from this opportunity.

Staff discussed potential future projects and offered the below considerations:

- Historic Band Shell Rehabilitation
- Waste Water Treatment Plan Upgrade
- Purchase and redevelop the Pawn Shop site
- Assistance in Ore Dock Upland Redevelopment and Rehabilitation of the historic water treatment plant and J-well
- Acquire and redevelop the C. Reiss and/or Clarkston docks for waterfront economic development
- Transform streetscape of Main Street/Downtown
- Reconfigure the US 2 Highway crossing near Wal-Mart
- Bay City Creek Pedestrian Trail

Before submitting a final list, Council is asked for their input of appropriations for the future of the City of Ashland.



TAMMY BALDWIN

United States Senator *for* WISCONSIN

Dear Recipient

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I look to bring our Wisconsin values to the national conversation about how we invest in moving our economy forward.

Each year, the Appropriations Committee writes the legislation allocating federal funds, which is then made available for local projects and national programs. I am already working with my colleagues to make sure they know what matters most to Wisconsinites in the new fiscal year - so I want to hear directly from you about how upcoming appropriations legislation should prioritize investments in our communities. Due to the spending constraints of the federal budget, Congress will not be able to fund every program or project, but your input is crucial.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the Appropriations Committee is expected to utilize the authority to approve congressionally directed spending items on a bipartisan basis with enhanced transparency and accountability. As a result, public and non-profit entities in Wisconsin may propose congressionally directed spending items.

[Click here to make an appropriations request on behalf of your community for the upcoming fiscal year. The deadline to submit requests will be announced soon.](#)

As you consider your community's priorities, take into account the type of investment you are requesting:

- Programmatic requests are appropriations requests for Congress to fund an authorized federal program at a specific level or to include language directing a federal agency to implement a program in a specific way
- Congressionally directed spending requests are requests to fund a Wisconsin project or initiative

You have a unique perspective when it comes to understanding and responding to the specific challenges facing our communities. From increasing our investments in infrastructure to supporting economic development initiatives to protecting our water resources, I believe it is critical we work together to ensure upcoming federal funding decisions made in Washington work for Wisconsin.

[Please take a moment to share your thoughts about how we can prioritize investments in our Wisconsin communities and submit your appropriations request as soon as possible here.](#)

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator for Wisconsin

Ref: 2025-083

**COMMITTEE AGENDA:
4.C. (3/25/2025)**

SUBJECT: Potential Discussion Items for Upcoming Council Retreat Agenda (*Mayor*)

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion only

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Mayor

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC
PLAN:**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Mayor scheduled a Council Retreat for April 29, 2025. It has been a goal to hold at least one, if not two, retreats to gather councilors and department staff in an informal setting for discussion outside the formalities of a council meeting. Council is asked for topics for discussion they feel may be fitting for such meeting.

Suggested agenda may items include:

- Preparation for upcoming Strategic Planning, process and dates
- Agenda bill creation process
- Administrator's review process
- Structuring of Communications and Finance Task Forces
- List of duties and expectations for Mayor and Council President