



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Scott Walker
Governor

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.
Secretary

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June 8, 2016

Thomas Nelson, County Executive
Outagamie County
410 South Walnut Street
Appleton, WI 54911

Dear County Executive Nelson:

I am writing to formally notify you of the Department's decision to not pursue a joint law enforcement facility with Outagamie County at this time. At your request earlier this year, we agreed to jointly consider a shared facility for the Outagamie County Sheriff and the Division of State Patrol's Northeast Region Post. Given our need to find a better facility in the area as well as our desire to reduce costs, the Department was very interested in studying this concept.

WisDOT and county staff met on a number of occasions to discuss: program needs, possible locations, and ownership alternatives. Once the county identified its preferred location, we asked the Wisconsin Department of Administration to engage an architecture/engineering firm to conduct an independent assessment of a combined Sheriff/State Patrol facility.

The report has been completed and identified a number of significant limitations with the preferred site, including:

- A high voltage transmission line that could interfere with State Patrol tower-based communications, including dispatch operations;
- Direct access to the property is limited to only one location;
- Wetlands on the site restrict the area available for development;
- The wetlands area is growing as a result of surrounding development and would need remediation; and
- The lack of any opportunity for facility expansion in the future.

The report identified potential construction savings associated with a shared facility but noted that added costs associated with the issues identified above could reduce or even fully negate any potential savings. For these reasons, the report concludes that the site does not serve the long-term needs of the State.

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More detailed analysis would be required to address these issues. However, the county's timetable to implement its capital improvement plan combined with our limited construction funding this biennium would preclude us from moving forward on a shared law enforcement facility at this time.

The Department is always interested in opportunities to gain efficiencies from shared services and appreciated your interest in working cooperatively. Thank you again for contacting us and for working so closely with our staff. If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Secretary Paul Hammer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Gottlieb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Gottlieb" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.
Secretary

Cc: Paul Hammer, WisDOT Deputy Secretary
Craig Moser, Outagamie County Deputy Executive Administrator