

## Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities

### Existing Transportation Network

Transportation networks are key components of development patterns in southeastern Sauk County and south central Wisconsin. Effective systems allow people and materials to flow productively for employment and market reasons both locally and regionally. They also provide a first opportunity for many tourists to view the scenic landscapes and history of an area. The Town of Sumpter is serviced by an extensive transportation network involving private, local, county, state and federal roadway systems. Other transportation facilities that lie within or are nearby include rail, air, and bicycle/recreational trail systems. This section describes the existing transportation facilities in the Town as well as examines their respective conditions. Map 7: *Transportation Map*, shows the existing roadways in the Town as well as other transportation facilities.

### Roadways

**U.S. Highway 12** runs north and south through the middle of the Town of Sumpter. It serves as the principal arterial street as the main access between the City of Madison and the Wisconsin Dells area which includes the I-90/94 corridor. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation traffic counts, the average daily traffic volumes for USH 2 through the Town of Sumpter were 10,400 south of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant and 12,500 north of the Plant in 2000. These volumes represent an increase of more than 100% in since 1981. Expansion of USH 12 to the south between Sauk City and



Middleton to four lanes began in 2002 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2004. In addition, resurfacing of the corridor between Baraboo and Sauk City began in 2001 and will be completed by the end of 2002, including all of the Town of Sumpter.

**State Highway 78** runs through a small portion of the Town in the southeastern corner. This transportation corridor provides access along Lake Wisconsin between Prairie du Sac/USH 12 and Merrimac. It is defined by numerous sharp corners and blind spots due to poor vertical and horizontal alignments. As a result, it is classified as a minor arterial street which typically has less traffic carrying capacity, slower speeds and more frequent stops than principal arterial streets. This corridor is used primarily as a commuter route for year-round residents and cottage owners along Lake Wisconsin. Average daily traffic volumes on STH 78 have increased 96% over the last twenty years, with counts now surpassing 5,000 vehicles a day according to WisDOT. As a result, WisDOT is currently proposing to improve the vertical and horizontal alignment of the highway in 2006-2008. The proposed project will involve the acquisition of additional acreage, mostly in the Town of Merrimac.