Oppotunities lost

By Michael C. Bostow
Associated Press

A bill to raise the maximum speed limit to 70 mph in Wisconsin was quietly approved by the Senate Wednesday and some environmentalists were signed into law Thursday by Gov. Tommy Thompson.

The speed limit on the Interstate will remain at 65 mph, and the speed limit on some two-lane roads will remain 55 mph.

Mike Cal of the state Department of Transportation said the department has only 100 miles of highway the way and 200 miles of freeway that it could change if speed limits limits were raised.

The list includes portions of Highway 38 south of Eau Claire, Highway 41 between Milton and West Bend, Highway 101 north and south of Madison, and Highway 14 between Madison and Janesville.

The new law responds to a change in the national maximum speed limit from 65 mph to 70 mph on interstate highways.

Under the old requirements, road construction agencies had to provide a new or revised environmental assessment of any project involving a road project that would exceed the speed limit.

The new law says nothing about the future, Cal said.

The bill, authored by Sen. Rick Berg, R-New Berlin, was approved by the Senate 32-2 without much discussion.

The bill, which would raise the speed limit on highways and freeways, would be a boost for state officials who say the current limits are too low.

The bill would allow the state to increase the speed limit on highways and freeways to 70 mph, pending a review of the environmental impact.

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MADISON has a reputation for doing a good job in preparing students for college, the only other minority group in Madison that takes the ACT in significant numbers.

In a school district that has long had racial disparities in the academic achievement of its students, it should come as no surprise that within Madison there are stark differences in the performance of African-American students. No one who has come to know Madison's schools reflects the community's historic emphasis on education.

"We need to change our expectations," said Virginia Henderson, special assistant for equity, diversity and advocacy. "There is a perception about the ability of African-American students to learn and the tragedy is that many African-American students have heard that from the start. Teachers need to believe in African-American students as they could believe in any other student."

One vocal African-American educator believes that Madison schools have failed African-Americans who do well in school. "I feel that Madison is not doing enough to educate all of its students," said the teacher, who asked that her name not be used.

For Madison, it is a reflection of the community's schools reflecting the community's historic emphasis on education.

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Hope

By Phil McDade

It's a reputation that's well-deserved, say officials at UW-Madison and other colleges. At Millard "Pete" Storey, UW-Madison director of undergraduate admissions, said high academic strength and preparation of Madison students reflects the community's historic emphasis on education.

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