



- SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION FOR FIXING WISCONSIN ROADS -

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for about 90% of the road miles in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, according to "Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin," commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

WHEREAS, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades which has adversely affected local transportation finances. According to "Filling Potholes," municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mass Transit Operating Aids and County Elderly and Disabled Transportation assistance programs are funded through the state gas tax and vehicle registration user fee system. These programs are critical to ensuring that transportation services are delivered to vulnerable citizens. Proper funding for these programs helps ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to access the workplace as well as the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's over-reliance on borrowing eats away at the state's segregated funding sources - the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees - which increasingly pay debt service rather than fund transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin. Unfortunately, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin. Both local and state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and Legislature clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors urge the Governor and Legislature to find a sustainable solution to fixing Wisconsin roads. A solution that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin's transportation system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

I certify that the foregoing correctly represents the action taken by the undersigned committee on June 2, 2016 by a vote of 4 for, 0 against.

ADOPTED: June 21, 2016

Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk