Moved/Sponsored by: Public Works Committee

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for nearly 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, Walworth County and other local governments across Wisconsin have been highlighting our unmet transportation needs in many different avenues including events such as the historic Turnout for Transportation event in September of 2016 where local governments in every region of this State held simultaneous meetings calling on the State Legislature to prioritize transportation and pass a sustainable funding package; and,

WHEREAS, while the increase in transportation funding for locals in the last budget was certainly appreciated, many still are not back to 2011 levels when adjusted for inflation; and,

WHEREAS, local units of government, including Walworth County, continue to struggle to meet even the most basic maintenance needs for our transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, states surrounding Wisconsin and across the country have stepped up with sustainable plans to fund their state and local roads; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin will be at a competitive disadvantage if it does not implement a revenue and spending plan that addresses both our Interstate highways that were built in the 1950s and 1960s and our local and state roads; and,

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local governments to make up for inadequate state funding; and,

WHEREAS, local governments would not be forced to turn to local wheel taxes or increased borrowing or exceeding their levy limits if the State would finally pass a sustainable funding plan for transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Walworth 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 its neighbors when one considers the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees; and,
Policy and Fiscal Note
Resolution No. 47 - 11/18

I. Title: Urging the State of Wisconsin to “Just Fix It” as it Relates to Funding Wisconsin’s Transportation System

II. Purpose and Policy Impact Statement: The purpose of this advisory resolution is to urge the Governor and Legislature to agree upon a solution that will adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin’s transportation system.

III. Budget and Fiscal Impact: Passage of this advisory resolution will have no impact on the County budget. If the State were to implement the relief requested in this resolution, it would likely increase user fees such as the gas tax. It could also result in increased state revenue to the County. The impact of taxes and revenue would depend entirely on how the State would structure this program.

IV. Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:

   Committee: Public Works
   Meeting Date: October 15, 2018

   Vote: 5-0

   County Board Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

David A. Bretl 10/15/18
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Nicole Andersen 10/17/18
Deputy County Administrator – Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.