RESOLUTION NO. 21-18

SYNOPSIS: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION AND
THE TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR JUST-FIX-IT CAMPAIGN
RELATED TO FUNDING OF TRANSPORTATION IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
INTRODUCED BY: HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Columbia County:

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, Columbia 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 aren’t back to 2011 levels when you adjust for
inflation; and

WHEREAS, locals, including Columbia 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 funding plans for 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 Interstates that were built in the 1950’s
and 60’s and our local and state roads; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration
of 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 Columbia 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Columbia County Board of Supervisors;
the Board urges the Governor and Legislature to “Just Fix-It” and agree upon a sustainable
solution: one 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 Columbia County Board of Supervisors directs
the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott
Walker.

Fiscal Note: NONE
Fiscal Impact: NONE

James Foley
Kirk Konkel
JoAnn Wingers
Craig Robson
Andy Ross

Highway Committee

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA
CERTIFIED COPY

I certify that this is a true and exact copy of the original of which I am legal custodian for the County Clerk of Columbia County. Signed by County Clerk or Deputy County Clerk.

Date