

RESOLUTION 2018 – 38

Re: Just Fix It – Funding of Wisconsin’s Transportation System

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, Vilas 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 Vilas 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 Vilas County Board 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in session this 24th day of July 2018 that we urge 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 a copy of this resolution is sent to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

SUBMITTED BY: Highway Committee

s/ Charles Rayala, Chair

s/ Willy Otterpohl, Vice Chair

s/ Gerald Burkett

Todd Achterberg

s/ Charles Hayes