RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

INITIATED BY

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED BY

Ben Coopman, Public Works Director

DRAFTED BY

June 7, 2016

DATE DRAFTED

REQUESTING STATE ACTION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

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 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 years and has declined from $275 per capita in 2000 to $227 in 2012; 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 Rock 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 by the Rock County Board of Supervisors meeting this 23rd day of JUNE, 2016 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 the Rock County Board of Supervisors directs the Rock County Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.
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Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Betty Jo Bussie, Chair

Absent

Brent Fox, Vice Chair

Eva Arnold

Rick Richard

Brenton Driscoll

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

J. Russell Podzimni, Chair

Sandra Kraft, Vice-Chair

Eva Arnold

Henry Bull

Betty Jo Bussie

Mary Mawhinney

Louis Peer

Alan Sweeney

Terry Thomas

FISCAL NOTE:

Fiscal impact to the County is dependent on what action is taken by the State on this issue.

Sheffy Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith
County Administrator