

**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

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

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as
5 city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, according to the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of
8 Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the
11 past several years and has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state
14 funding; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's over-reliance on borrowing eats away at the state's segregated funding
17 sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly pay debt service rather
18 than fund transportation needs; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across
21 Wisconsin. Unfortunately, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group,
22 Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors recognizes that our state highway and
25 interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the
26 economy of Wisconsin. Both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our
27 economy to grow; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of
30 our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees;
31 and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and
34 Legislature clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our
35 state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

36
37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors meeting
38 this 23rd day of JUNE, 2016 urges the Governor and Legislature to "Just Fix It" and agree
39 upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user
40 fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin's transportation system.

41
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Rock County Board of Supervisors directs the Rock County
43 Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

16-6B-058

REQUESTING STATE ACTION TO PROVED MORE TRANSPORTION FUNDING

Page 2

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Betty Jo Bussie

Betty Jo Bussie, Chair

Absent

Brent Fox, Vice Chair

Eva Arnold

Eva Arnold

Rick Richard

Rick Richard

Brenton Driscoll

Brenton Driscoll

FISCAL NOTE:

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

Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

J. Russell Podzilni

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

Sandra Kraft

Sandra Kraft, Vice-Chair

Eva Arnold

Eva Arnold

Henry Ball

Henry Ball

Betty Jo Bussie

Betty Jo Bussie

Mary Mawhinney

Mary Mawhinney

Louis Peer

Louis Peer

Alan Sweeney

Alan Sweeney

Terry Thomas

Terry Thomas