



July 13, 2016



County Clerk

Wisconsin Counties Association
22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 900
Madison, WI 53702

Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is the following Walworth County resolution:

Resolution No. 19-07/16 – Urging the State of Wisconsin to “Just Fix It”
as it Relates to Funding Wisconsin’s Transportation System

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors requested that this resolution be
forwarded to your office at their July 12, 2016 County Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Bushey
Walworth County Clerk

KSB/ps

Enclosures

Resolution No. 19 - 07/16

**Urging the State of Wisconsin to “Just Fix It” as it Relates to Funding Wisconsin’s
Transportation System**

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Public Works Committee

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

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6 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as
7 city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and;

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9 **WHEREAS**, according to “Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in
10 Wisconsin,” commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI), the condition
11 of Wisconsin’s highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and,

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13 **WHEREAS**, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the
14 past several decades which has adversely affected local transportation finances. According to
15 “Filling Potholes,” municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000
16 to \$227 in 2012; and,

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18 **WHEREAS**, Mass Transit Operating Aids and County Elderly and Disabled Transportation
19 assistance programs are funded through the state gas tax and vehicle registration user fee system.
20 These programs are critical to ensuring that transportation services are delivered to vulnerable
21 citizens. Proper funding for these programs helps ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to
22 access the workplace as well as the marketplace; and,

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

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

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

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35 **WHEREAS**, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors recognizes that our state highway and
36 interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the
37 economy in Wisconsin. Both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for
38 our economy to grow; and,

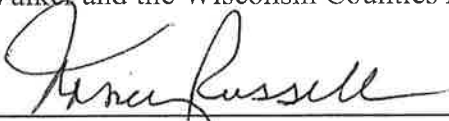
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40 **WHEREAS**, from a competitive standpoint, Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any
41 of our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registrations
42 fees; and,

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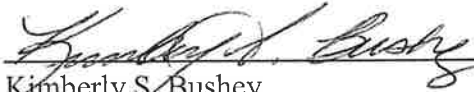
WHEREAS, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and Legislature, clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors 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 Walworth County Board of Supervisors directs the County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators, Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Counties Association.



Nancy Russell
County Board Chair





Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: July 12, 2016

Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote _____ Other _____

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.
 Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

	
_____ David A. Bretl County Administrator/Corporation Counsel	_____ Nicole Andersen Deputy County Administrator - Finance
6/27 Date	6/27/16 Date

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

This Resolution/Ordinance was:
 Adopted: Roll Call/U.C./Voice
 Rejected/Referred/Laid Over
 Ayes: Noes: Absent:
 Date July 12, 2016