

County Board Agenda Item

(Resolutions, Ordinances, County Board Items)

Meeting Date: *February 11, 2026*

Agenda Item: *Resolution – In Support of Sustainable Transportation Funding*

Department / Division:

Staff Contact: *County Board Chair Dave Frohling, (920) 386-3603, district23@co.dodge.wi.us*

BACKGROUND

(who, what, when, where, why)

The Wisconsin Counties Association sent out a call to action for Counties to pass a resolution declaring support for Sustainable Transportation Funding. Currently, there is a funding gap in the State's Transportation Fund that has been filled with State sales and income tax dollars. In order to continue funding transportation programs at current levels, legislators must find a sustainable solution to address the funding gap.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(dates, committees, actions)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

(recommendations or requests)

FINAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

(Final recommendation to County Board)

Executive Committee recommends adoption of the resolution.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

WCA Call to Action Memo – Pass a Sustainable Transportation Funding Resolution
Resolution Supporting Legislation to Enact Sustainable Transportation Funding

Frohling, David

From: Wisconsin Counties Association <mail@wicounties.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 11:56 AM
To: Frohling, David
Subject: WCA Call to Action: Pass a Sustainable Transportation Funding Resolution

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Verify sender before opening links and attachments.



WCA CALL TO ACTION:
PASS A SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING RESOLUTION

On January 12, 2026, the Wisconsin Counties Association rolled out their first step in a multi faceted, coalition campaign urging lawmakers and future Governors to find a solution that ensures sustainable transportation funding.

What does this mean? When the state government allocates funding to locals, they can do it in a few different ways.

- **General Purpose Revenue:** primarily income and sales tax collected by the state.
- **Program Revenue:** primarily user fees that go toward a specific line item appropriation.
- **Segregated Revenue:** primarily user fees that go into a specified larger appropriation.

Transportation funding to locals is through the Segregated Transportation Fund. The state collects user fees (gas tax, registration fees, etc.) and that revenue is segregated into its own account, which is then used to fund local transportation programs.

- We have an unsustainable funding gap in the state's Transportation Fund.
- This gap has been filled over the last few biennia with state sales and income tax dollars.
- The state won't always have a surplus that can fill this over \$1 billion gap.

- We need lawmakers and future governors to address the issue by finding a sustainable solution.
- Increased funding for transportation is crucial for continued increases in LRIP, LRIP-S, GTA, ARIP, and 6-20 structures.

OUR ASK

- The below model resolution does not call for lawmakers to pick one solution over another, it **simply calls for a solution**.
- Our collective effort will show that counties throughout the state believe this issue needs to be addressed in the next budget.
- We need all counties **to pass this resolution** by the end of April 2026.

FIND THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING MODEL
RESOLUTION HERE

BACKGROUND

Over the past few biennia, the Transportation Fund has had an unsustainable funding gap, meaning the Legislature has had to transfer General Purpose Revenue (primarily the state income and sales tax) into the Transportation Fund to pay for all of its obligations.

For county government purposes, those obligations are General Transportation Aids (GTA), Local Road Improvement Program – Supplemental (LRIP-S), Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), Agriculture Road Improvement Program (ARIP), and new funding this biennium for the replacement and rehabilitation of 6-20-foot bridges.

While we're extremely appreciative that lawmakers and the current administration have continued to prioritize transportation in a bipartisan fashion, we're also cognizant that these increases to local transportation programs will not continue if a state surplus isn't available.

Our hope is to have as many resolutions passed by the end of April, so we have them in hand when we move into phase two: legislative meetings and candidate forums.

Resolution Supporting Legislation to Enact Sustainable Transportation Funding

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,

WHEREAS, local units of government in Wisconsin own and maintain approximately 90% of the public road miles in the state, including county highways, town roads, and city and village streets; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's economy rooted in agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism relies on a safe, reliable, and well-maintained transportation network; and,

WHEREAS, local governments greatly appreciate the one-time infusions of State General Purpose Revenue, primarily sales and income taxes, and other revenue provided in recent state budgets, which have enabled the initiation and continuation of the successful and popular Local Roads Improvement Program Supplemental (LRIP-S) and Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP); and,

WHEREAS, despite modest increases from the state over the years, transportation aids to local governments remain insufficient to keep pace with inflation and rising construction costs, leaving many communities funded below 2000 levels in real dollars; and,

WHEREAS, local governments throughout Wisconsin continue to struggle to perform even routine maintenance, pavement preservation, and safety improvements, resulting in deteriorating roads and bridges; and,

WHEREAS, the inaugural inventory and assessment of small bridges between 6 to 20 feet found about 10% of the nearly 17,000 structures to be in poor or severe condition; and,

WHEREAS, levy limits and other fiscal constraints prevent local governments from independently filling the funding gap created by inadequate state transportation aids; and,

WHEREAS, absent sustainable state funding, many communities have been forced to address their shortfalls by significantly increasing borrowing, deferring essential projects, or imposing local vehicle registration ("wheel") taxes; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin motorists currently pay among the lowest transportation user fees in the Midwest, while neighboring states and dozens of others nationwide have enacted long-term revenue measures to keep their transportation systems competitive; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is increasingly relying on State General Purpose Revenues to make needed investments, potentially pitting transportation against other vital services, such as education; and,

1 **WHEREAS**, continued lack of increased, dedicated, and predictable revenue places
2 Wisconsin at a growing economic disadvantage by threatening the efficiency of freight movement,
3 the safety of travelers, and the attractiveness of our state to businesses and residents; and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, both Wisconsin's aging Interstate highway system—largely constructed in
6 the 1950s and 1960s—and our extensive network of state and local roads require predictable,
7 adequate, and sustainable funding to meet current and future needs;
8

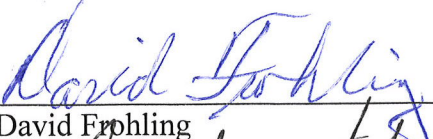
9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dodge County Board of Supervisors,
10 strongly urges the Governor of Wisconsin and the State Legislature to enact a comprehensive,
11 sustainable transportation funding solution that:
12

- 13 1. Provides adequate and reliable revenue growth for the efficient long-term planning and
14 execution of state and local transportation programs;
- 15 2. Includes responsible and prudent use of State General Purpose Revenue and bonding;
- 16 3. Adjusts any new and existing transportation user fees and other revenue mechanisms to
17 sustain purchasing power in order to maintain and improve Wisconsin's transportation
18 infrastructure; and,
- 19 4. Ensures transportation continues to deliver for Wisconsin by adequately funding
20 reconstruction, preservation, and safety investments on the state and local systems.; and,
21

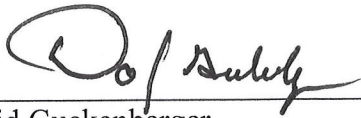
22 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this
23 resolution to the Governor's office, all members of Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly
24 representing districts within Dodge County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.
25

26 All of which is respectfully submitted this 11th day of February, 2026.
27

Dodge County Executive Committee:



David Frohling

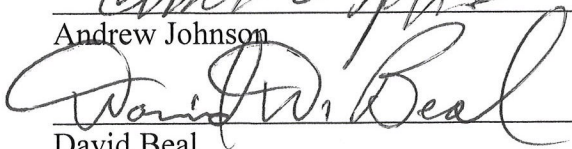


David Guckenberger

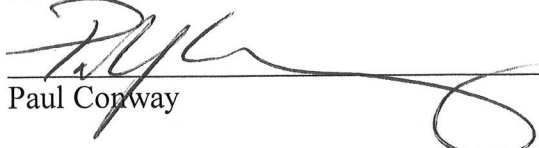


Andrew Johnson

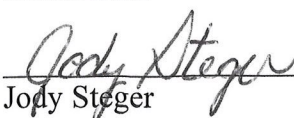
Jenifer Hedrick



David Beal



Paul Conway



Jody Steger

Vote Required: Majority of Members Present.

Resolution Summary: Resolution Supporting Legislation to Enact Sustainable Transportation Funding.