

1 **2016 RES-265**

2 **URGING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF WISCONSIN'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

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4 Local government in Wisconsin is responsible for about 90% of the road miles in the state.
5 Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and
6 village streets and transit systems across the state.
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8 According to "Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin,"
9 commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of
10 Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country. State funding for local roads in
11 Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades which has adversely
12 affected local transportation finances. According to "Filling Potholes," municipal transportation
13 spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012.
14

15 Levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding.
16 Wisconsin's over-reliance on borrowing eats away at the state's segregated funding sources –
17 the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly pay debt service rather than
18 fund transportation needs.
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20 Safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin.
21 Unfortunately, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin
22 had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013.
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24 The Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes that the state highway and interstate system
25 is the backbone of the surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of
26 Wisconsin. Both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for the economy
27 to grow.
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29 From a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of the
30 neighboring states when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle
31 registration fees. The Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the
32 Governor and Legislature clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the
33 condition of both state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.
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35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urge the
36 Governor and the Legislature to "Just Fix It" and agree upon a sustainable solution: one that
37 includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts user fees to adequately and sustainably
38 fund Wisconsin's transportation and transit systems.
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker
41 and the Dane County legislative delegation.