



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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For Immediate Release
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Statement on the State Highway 23 Expansion Project

Madison—State Representatives Terry Katsma (R–Oostburg), Tyler Vorpapel (R–Plymouth), Jesse Kremer (R–Kewaskum), and Jeremey Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac) released the following statement:

“We are deeply disappointed and frustrated to learn the news that construction on the State Highway 23 expansion project has been delayed yet again, this time due to a federal court ruling on a lawsuit filed by an environmental special interest group.

“Construction on a seven-mile stretch of the state highway—from Plymouth to the Sheboygan County line—had been scheduled to begin today. Late last week, Federal Judge Lynn Adelman issued an order that effectively voids the federal approval that Wisconsin had previously obtained for the project. Without this federal approval, the WI Department of Transportation (DOT) has been forced to delay construction indefinitely.

“When this project was first proposed in 1999, the total cost estimate for the entire project (from Sheboygan to Fond du Lac) was approximately \$42 million. Today, that estimate is \$145 million—345 percent of the original total—and this latest delay will only cause that number to increase further.

“The State Highway 23 project continues to be a tremendous priority—not only because of highway safety considerations but also because of the long-term economic impact the project will have for Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties. We are confident that federal approval for the project will be restored soon, and we will keep fighting to ensure that state funding continues to be available for DOT to proceed with construction as soon as the legal battle is resolved.”

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