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## **Murphy Commends Walker I-41 Announcement**

APPLETON, WI — Today, State Representative Dave Murphy (R–Greenville) thanked Governor Walker for directing the Department of Transportation to evaluate improvement of I-41 in northeastern Wisconsin. Murphy has pushed for improving I-41 from four to six lanes in the six mile stretch between Highway 15 and Highway 441 North in the Fox Valley. Murphy reflected on the Governor’s announcement, stating, “My friend Mike Ellis liked to say that I-41 was the Main Street of the Fox Valley. It’s time that our growing community gets the Main Street it deserves. Improving this six mile stretch is the first, and most critical step, in realizing the dream of a six lane highway all the way to Green Bay.” Fox Valley business leaders and public officials have joined Murphy in calling for improvement of the freeway.

Murphy is adamant that now is the perfect time to begin the process of improving I-41, stating, “If we don’t get the ball rolling on this now, it will never be done. Starting the I-41 planning phase in the next budget will give businesses and commuters the confidence they need to remain in our community long into the future.”

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will need to study the specific span of interstate to get a cost estimate. In order to limit costs and expedite construction, Murphy is recommending that the section of I-41 between Appleton and Green Bay in the worst condition be completed first, stating, “As the freeway continues to be inadequate, the Fox Valley will lose economic growth opportunities. The lost time during commutes and the crashes are costing our community dearly. The six mile stretch of freeway on the north side of Appleton is one of the worst in pavement quality, congestion, and crashes. As the road curves and reduces from six to four lanes, drivers are placed in significant danger. Year by year crashes have continued to increase. I’m doing everything I can to get our community businesses, commuters, police, truckers, and families the safe road that they deserve.”

Murphy commented on the Governor’s announcement, stating, “Governor Scott Walker has been a leader on transportation issues, and has been committed to fixing I-41 on every occasion that I have raised the issue with him. I’m proud to have a Governor and friend who understands the needs of the Fox Valley and is willing to fight for us.”

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