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## Murphy Applauds I-41 Budget Enumeration

APPLETON, WI — Last night, the legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance adopted a motion to enumerate a major improvement of I-41 in Outagamie and Brown Counties that runs roughly 23 miles between Highway 96 to County Road F. The motion allocates \$4 million in the first year of the budget and \$2 million in the second year for environmental review studies and an interchange report. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation would also be required by the motion to construct an interchange in De Pere at Southbridge Road.

State Representative Dave Murphy (R–Greenville), a longtime strident advocate for the project, applauded the decision, stating, “The adoption of this motion by my Republican colleagues on the Joint Finance Committee is an incredible first step in a long road to getting this critical project started and giving the people of Fox Valley the safe roads we deserve.”

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 this budget gives businesses and commuters the confidence they need to remain in our community long into the future.” Fox Valley business leaders and public officials have joined Murphy in calling for improvement of the freeway.

If the enumeration is signed into law by Governor Evers, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will need to complete a federal environmental review process and interchange access reports before any construction may begin. Murphy commented on the timeline, stating, “No freeway is built overnight, but our Republican budget ensures that we will head in the right direction. I’m hopeful Governor Evers will recognize the importance of signing the I-41 budget enumeration into law. 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 and precious lives have been lost. I’m doing everything I can to get our community businesses, commuters, police, truckers, and families the safe road that they deserve.”

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