

AMANDA STUCK

State Representative ♦ 57th Assembly District

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Rep. Stuck Statement on Joint Finance Action to Provide Funding for On-time Highway 10-441 Project Completion.

MADISON – As a result of significant public and political pressure, today, the Joint Committee on Finance approved the Department of Transportation’s request for additional bonding to reduce delays for five major highway projects across the state.

“I am glad that the members of the Joint Finance Committee considered the letters and requests that I sent to them asking for their support, and voted to approve the DOT’s request for an additional \$350 million in bonding authority which will help to keep both the Highway 10-441 project in my district and the Highway 15 project in Outagamie County on track. These projects are important to the safety of my constituents and to all Fox Cities residents who utilize these roads,” stated Rep. Stuck. “In addition, any delays to these projects will negatively impact local emergency service response times, will leave more dangerous road conditions in place, and will negatively impact local businesses surrounding the projects.”

“While I do not think that simply relying on bonding is a good thing or is sustainable for the future funding of our transportation infrastructure, delaying these projects would cost the state an additional \$160 million to complete them. It is certainly past due, for the Legislature and the Governor to actually engage in a serious conversation about how to ensure the long-term stability of our transportation system,” said Rep. Stuck. “I am hopeful that the promises made in the Committee hearing today will actually occur, because quite frankly we cannot afford any more years of simply putting road expenses on the state’s credit card. I look forward to seeing the possible solutions that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have to address this issue, since each and every one shot down the suggestions on the bi-partisan Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, and Republican DOT Secretary Gottlieb’s budget request, both of whom put forward numerous options and ideas to solve this problem.”

“I am glad that my Assembly Colleagues on both sides of the aisle saw that approving this request was the right thing to do for the State of Wisconsin and the right thing to do for the Fox Cities. I am likewise thankful to the Senate Democrats on the Committee for their support, but I am disappointed that Senate Republicans voted against this proposal. It is unacceptable that these Senators are willing to rely on borrowing when it comes to projects impacting their Milwaukee suburb districts and other areas across the state, but ready to throw the Fox Cities under the bus,” stated Rep. Stuck. “I am disappointed that our Fox Valley area Senators were either unwilling or unable to convince their colleagues of these projects’ importance to our community and to the state as a whole.”

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