



Despite years of study and discussion, public pressure, and reasonable proposals by Governor Walker's own Secretary of Transportation, this budget guts funding for our infrastructure and will leave us with even less money two years from now.

One amendment can't solve the entire problem, but this amendment at least addresses some of the worst issues.

Critical to my district as well as others like the 43rd, 44th, and 31st is the expansion of I-39/90 from the Illinois state line to Madison.

Secretary Gottlieb has called this project "economically vital."

If we approve this budget as written, this project is likely to be forced into a two year delay.

For cities like Beloit, Janesville, and Edgerton, this delay will harm the local economy and cost jobs.

For tourists coming from Illinois to spend their money in Wisconsin, this delay will mean fewer lanes, more traffic, and slower driving when they hit the Wisconsin border.

Illinois has done its part by widening this highway, which Secretary Gottlieb called the "Gateway to Wisconsin," and now it's time to do our part.

The Beloit Daily News points out that bottlenecks at the border are "not exactly a "Welcome to Wisconsin" bumper sticker, or fitting for the governor's "Open for Business" sign at the welcome center."

Don't we want tourists to be able to get to their cabins, or what's left of our state parks after this budget, and continue to bolster our multi-billion dollar tourism industry?

Listening to my friends on the other side talk about needed budget cuts, lord knows we sure need the resulting tax revenue!

Rather than continuing JFC's debate over how to "share the pain" of cutting projects, we should be discussing how to share the gain that will come from responsibly funding our transportation system.

45TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Also, let's save \$1 million and skip yet another study on how to raise revenue - we already know all the options.

The I-39/90 expansion is just one example that would bring commerce and additional tourism dollars to Wisconsin.

This amendment addresses other projects, helps towns access state matching funds for their local roads, and makes other improvements to our transportation budget.

Let's pass this amendment and keep our economically vital projects on schedule.

45TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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