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STATE SENATOR

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Senator Craig & Colleagues Author Transportation Reform Bills *Legislation Creates Sustainable DOT Practices*

Madison, WI — Today, State Senator David Craig (R-Town of Vernon) circulated several reform bills, as part of the Republican-led Road to Sustainability Package, to improve department-wide efficiency and accountability inside the Department of Transportation (DOT). The resulting operational improvements would help pave the way for sustainable, long-term success inside the DOT while reducing waste, curbing project mismanagement, and protecting taxpayers.

“Having a conservative transportation plan in place that increases oversight inside the DOT and prioritizes fiscally responsible engineering and construction plans will lead to less bureaucratic waste, better management of tax dollars, and more open roads for Wisconsin drivers.”

The following bills authored by Senator David Craig have been circulated for co-sponsorship:

[LRB 2824](#) – requiring an inspector general to investigate Department of Transportation programs and activities and making an appropriation.

- **DOT Inspector General** – Creates a financial-savings mechanism with the placement of an Inspector General (IG) within the Legislative Audit Bureau to independently review DOT fiscal and process activities. The IG will report directly to the legislature and function as a watchdog to proactively seek out waste, fraud, and abuse.

[LRB 2033](#) – requiring approval by a municipal governing body before construction of highway roundabouts.

- **Local Approval of Roundabouts** – Creates local review and an additional fiscal management tool to ensure that a roundabout is both needed and wanted in the local municipality in which it is proposed.

[LRB 2773](#) – scope of highway improvement plans.

- **Replace in kind** – Provides for financial-savings mechanism by requiring, with certain exceptions, that DOT plan for a highway improvement involving reconstruction or replacement

of an existing highway must be for an improvement that is of substantially the same scope as the highway being reconstructed or replaced, including the use of the same or similar materials and substantial maintenance of the existing footprint.

LRB 2771 – requiring a local referendum to impose a wheel tax.

- **Local wheel tax referendum** – Empowers taxpayers to approve local transportation tax increases proposed through the adoption of new or additional wheel tax measures via local referendum.

LRB 3106 – discretionary merit awards by the Department of Transportation.

- **Merit Pay for finding efficiencies** – Creates another financial-savings mechanism within DOT by providing discretionary additional merit compensation for DOT employees who identify a cost savings, efficiency or innovation with the agency.

LRB 3025 – bidding procedures for highway improvements.

- **Single bidder contracts** – Requires the DOT to rebid any project for which only a single bid is received if that bid exceeds the department’s estimated cost of work by 10% or more. Allows DOT to avoid the requirement in cases of a threat to public safety, with JFC approval.

For a complete list of the Road to Sustainability Package of bills and what they do, you can view the co-sponsorship memo [here](#).

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[Senator Craig](#) represents the 28th Senate District which includes parts of Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Walworth counties.