



# DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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## **Republican Senators Made the Right Vote on DOT Bonding** *Policy makers must first consider squeezing new efficiencies from DOT*

Madison, WI – Following yesterday’s Joint Finance Committee vote to release \$350 million in contingency road bonding, Senator Duey Stroebel (R- Cedarburg) issued the subsequent statement:

*I am proud of my Senate colleagues on Joint Finance for voting against additional borrowing. Too often the state loses focus of core responsibilities and fails to prioritize. I recognize the importance of addressing the long-term transportation revenue requirements of the state. There is a necessity for infrastructure that can handle the needs of commerce and a mobile citizenry.*

*Nonetheless, there are many efficiencies which remain untapped at the Department of Transportation. The budget resulted in elimination of the prevailing wage for all levels of local government. In 2017, this change will free up transportation resources at the local level.*

*Additionally, other legislators have introduced legislation relating to local control over the inclusion of roundabouts in local highway projects. Some have also discussed other areas for streamlining, such as DOT staffing levels and the current installation of superfluous projects.*

*I have recently unveiled legislation to “swap” federal transportation dollars with state dollars, thereby reducing the delivery costs for local units of government. Roughly \$45 million worth of projects would be impacted in the second year of this budget. The bill provides efficiencies and greater local control.*

*Senator Alberta Darling noted that we are eagerly awaiting the release of a pending DOT audit to ensure the agency is spending transportation revenue as efficiently as possible. Only when all practical efficiencies are implemented should we be considering “long-term solutions”. When a private business or non-profit organization is facing financial hurdles, the first step is to consider efficiencies and then implement cost-saving measures. Immediately turning to additional and substantial borrowing is a recipe for further financial pain.*

*I stand ready and willing to work with my colleagues on identifying efficiencies in transportation projects. We all want good roads. First, we need to be ensuring every possible efficiency is considered and implemented before seeking additional borrowing or worse, implementing new taxes.*

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