



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release:
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Stroebel, Brooks Introduce Bill to Swap Federal Money, Curtail Regulations

Local officials call for greater efficiencies in road projects

Madison, WI – Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Cedarburg) issued the following statement after introduction of his DOT “swap” bill:

Today, I introduced legislation which will address the way in which transportation funding is identified and then allocated to local units of government. As transportation needs increase and legislators and the Administration struggle to arrive at a “long-term” transportation funding solution, it is imperative that we identify efficiencies within the Department of Transportation budget.

Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) and I have proposed legislation which would “swap” a portion of federal funds within local transportation programs with already existing state transportation dollars, thereby removing costly and unnecessary federal regulations and red-tape from local highway projects. The requirement would apply to future budgets.

We have been working closely with key stakeholders in the transportation industry, including the Wisconsin County Highway Association, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. According to a January 2013 report from the Wisconsin Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, local units of government could save 25% on local projects by removing federal dollars and replacing those dollars with state funds.

We all have a vested interest in good roads. Whether for purposes of moving goods and labor or simply exploring our beautiful state, we all agree it is necessary to invest in our infrastructure. However, I am not willing to consider new taxes or fees until we are sure that there are no further efficiencies which can be implemented at the DOT. This bill represents just one of those efficiencies.

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