



## DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sen. Jon Erpenbach (608) 266-6670  
Sen. LaTonya Johnson (608) 266-2500  
Rep. Evan Goyke (608) 266-0645  
Rep. Greta Neubauer (608) 266-0634

## **Budget Bulletin: Hitting the Wall on Infrastructure**

### *A Recap of Joint Finance Committee Action on the 2021-23 State Budget*

MADISON – The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) continued to work through the budget process in an executive session on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. JFC took action on budget items for the Departments of Military Affairs, Administration, Building Commission, Building Program, and Transportation. In an effort to help keep Wisconsin citizens more informed, Democratic members on the committee provided the following recap of what happened in the budget hearing and how that impacts Wisconsin communities:

#### ***Department of Military Affairs (DMA)***

Democrats on the committee offered omnibus [Motion #82](#), encompassing the Governor's budget request for Military Affairs. The motion included full funding for the replacement of the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (WISCOM) and Next Generation 911. The motion failed along party lines 4-11, with one Republican absent from the meeting.

The Republicans on the committee moved [Motion #81](#). The motion declined to fully fund WISCOM, instead reserving \$6 million of the \$6.5 million needed in the JFC supplemental appropriation in 2022-23 and not guaranteeing the project moves forward. Additionally, the motion did not provide additional funding or positions for the Comprehensive Health and Wellness Program, a program that focuses on the mental, social and physical well-being of National Guard members. The motion passed 11-4.

#### ***Department of Administration (DOA) – Division of Gaming***

Democrats on the committee offered [Motion #74](#), the Governor's budget request for Division of Gaming that included an annual appropriation for the Tribal Youth Wellness Center. The motion failed 4-11.

The Republicans on the committee moved [Motion #83](#). The motion included one-time funding for the Tribal Youth and Wellness Center (half the money in the Democrats' motion) and did not create the new Director of Native American Affairs position. The motion passed 11-4.

#### ***Building Commission, Building Program***

Democrats on the committee offered omnibus [Motion #75](#), the Governor's full capital budget request. The motion included several important investments in state infrastructure including a \$45 million funding for a Juvenile Corrections Facility in Milwaukee so that Lincoln Hills may finally close, and several overdue UW investments. The full capital budget included \$2.3 billion in state investments. The motion failed 4-11.

Republicans offered [Motion #84](#). The motion included \$800 million less in capital investments and crucially did not invest in critical infrastructure that was in the Democratic motion, including only \$4 million for planning the new Juvenile Corrections Facility in Milwaukee, effectively delaying the closure of Lincoln Hills. The motion passed 11-4.

**-OVER-**

***Department of Transportation***

Democrats on the committee offered [Motion #85](#), encompassing the Governor's budget request for DOT. The motion included investments in state highway rehabilitation, an increase in Mass Transit operating assistance across the state, and the enumeration of the I-94 East/West corridor. Additionally, it used \$10 million from the VW settlement to fund grants for electric vehicle charging stations. It also included minimal transfer of general purpose funds to the transportation fund. The motion failed 3-12.

Republicans offered [Motion #86](#). The motion included a 50% cut in mass transit aid for Madison and Milwaukee, a \$41 million reduction in state mass transit money for the two most populous cities over the biennium, and over \$205 million in state transfers to the transportation fund, an unsustainable use of state general funds in the long-term. It did also fully enumerate the I-94 East/West corridor and took no additional action on the VW settlement money. The motion passed 11-4.

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