



For Immediate Release
February 1, 2018

Contact: Rep. Gordon Hintz
608.266.2254



GOP Transportation Circus Continues

Desperate I-94 E-W proposal highlights long-term failure to fix problems

(MADISON) Today, Assembly Democratic Leader Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) reacted to the last ditch effort put forth by legislative Republicans to re-start the I-94 East-West project.

“At this point, it’s hard to imagine any group with less credibility on transportation infrastructure than Wisconsin Republicans,” said Rep. Hintz. “For four years legislative Republicans did nothing, ultimately leading to Governor Walker defunding this project. Now, with three weeks left in session, they introduce a bill? Give me a break. Budgeting is about investing in priorities and long-term planning. Over and over, Republicans have demonstrated weak leadership and unwillingness to responsibly fund the transportation infrastructure needs of our state.”

Despite a long drawn out process to get agreement on a preferred alternative and garner federal approval for the East-West Corridor, the 2015-17 budget included no funding to move the project forward. Due to fears that the federal government may rescind its approval based on a lack of commitment to state funding, Governor Walker wrote the Federal Highway Administration stating: *“I support the advancement of this project and believe there is a reasonable expectation our 2017-2019 budget will be passed with the appropriate level of highway funding needed to advance the state’s highest priority needs.”* Governor Walker then introduced his 2017-19 budget with no funding to move the I-94 E-W project forward.

The legislature finally passed a delayed transportation budget that included no funding for the East-West Corridor. Shortly after the budget passed, Governor Walker’s transportation Secretary Dave Ross wrote the federal government and asked them to rescind its approval before the federal government had an opportunity to rescind their approval on their own.

“If Republicans wanted to take action on the I-94 E-W project, the opportunity has been there since 2015. This empty, last minute proposal won’t pass, and it won’t fix the Republicans’ transportation mess.”

###