



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Rep. Rob Brooks

November 19, 2015
(608) 267-2369

Representative Rob Brooks and Senator Stroebel Introduce Bill to Swap Federal Money and Curtail Regulations

Madison, WI—Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Cedarburg) and I, yesterday, introduced legislation addressing the way in which transportation funding is identified and ultimately allocated to local units of government. As Wisconsin's transportation needs increase and members of the legislature and Walker administration struggle to develop a viable long-term transportation funding solution, it is imperative for lawmakers to identify the efficiencies within the Department of Transportation's budget.

The proposed legislation would "swap" a portion of federal funds within local transportation programs with existing state transportation dollars, thereby removing burdensome, expensive and ineffectual federal regulations, from local highway projects. The aforementioned requirements would apply to future budgets.

Senator Stroebel and I have been working with key transportation industry stakeholders, including the Wisconsin County Highway Association, Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Department of Transportation, to name a few. A January 2013 report from the Wisconsin Transportation Finance and Policy Commission maintained that local units of government could save twenty-five percent on local projects by replacing federal funds with state dollars.

Every Wisconsinite deserves access to great roads. Whether for commerce, labor or exploring Wisconsin's beautiful landscape, we all submit that it is necessary to make infrastructure modernization a foremost priority. Neither Senator Stroebel nor I is willing to consider new taxes or fees until we are certain that there are no further efficiencies which can be implemented by the Department of Transportation. This bill is a first-rate example of one of those efficiencies.

###