



For Immediate Release
July 27, 2016

Contact: Rep. Katrina Shankland
Office: (608) 267-9649

Rep. Shankland: Statement on Rep. Nygren's Transportation Remarks

Madison – Today Assistant Assembly Democratic Leader Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement in response to JFC Co-Chair John Nygren's statements regarding the forthcoming 2017-19 state transportation budget. In his statement, Rep. Nygren seemingly admits that Republican legislators and the governor have repeatedly failed to find a sensible, long-term solution to fund our state's infrastructure and road projects.

"Assembly Democrats have steadfastly championed investing in our state's infrastructure without mortgaging our children's future. Governor Walker and Republican legislators have failed their constituents and abdicated their duty by kicking the can down our crumbling roads. Wisconsin ranks third worst in the nation for roads and bridges - yet Republicans have not shown leadership on fixing this urgent issue for our state's workers, tourism industry, and economy.

"Rep. Nygren's statement is too little too late. Republicans have had years to lead on this issue, and now that an election is coming, they are suddenly taking interest. Where was his leadership during the last budget cycle when Rep. Nygren voted against a Democratic budget motion that would have brought the state more revenue through indexing the state's gas tax?

"We have heard this song and dance from Republican legislators before. When the rubber meets the road, Republican leaders like Rep. Nygren have bowed down to the governor and other Republican Joint Finance members by implementing a fiscally irresponsible plan of bonding to pay for the maintenance of our roads. The state cannot afford more of the same from Republican leaders when it comes to transportation funding. If we want to invest in infrastructure and have money for both maintenance and new projects for many years to come, we must implement a sustainable funding solution - now."

###