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**June 15, 2023**

**Contact: Rep. Angie Sapik**  
**608-237-9173**

## **Representative Angie Sapik Celebrates Huge Funding Allocation for Blatnik Bridge Construction**

Superior, WI - The Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has allocated an impressive \$400 million for the construction of the Blatnik Bridge, and Representative Angie Sapik is celebrating this significant funding allocation.

The Blatnik Bridge is a critical link between Superior, WI, and Duluth, MN, and currently serves approximately 33,000 vehicles daily. The bridge was initially constructed in 1961 and has exceeded its useful life, deteriorating to the extent that it now has a 40-ton weight limit. Consequently, the bridge experiences regular partial closures and interruptions for inspections and maintenance.

"The Blatnik Bridge is a crucial infrastructure project necessary for the safe and efficient transportation of people and goods between Wisconsin and Minnesota," said Rep Sapik. "This funding allocation is fantastic news for our region, and it will ensure that the bridge is reconstructed with the latest technologies, materials, and designs to improve safety and longevity."

The total cost of the bridge replacement is estimated at \$1.8 billion, and it would be covered between Wisconsin and Minnesota. The states have jointly applied for a federal grant totaling \$883 million to cover a significant portion of the cost. If the states receive this grant, the Wisconsin share of the estimated cost will reduce to \$400 million.

"This allocation of this funding couldn't have come at a better time," said Rep Sapik. "The Blatnik Bridge is a vital transportation link between our two states, and with this additional funding, we can ensure that it remains safe and operational for many years to come."



Madison Office:  
Room 16 West  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708



[Rep.Sapik@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Sapik@legis.wisconsin.gov)



(608) 237-9173  
(888) 534-0073