



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

June 22, 2015

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor  
115 East Capitol

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald  
Senate Majority Leader  
211 South Capitol

The Honorable Alberta Darling  
Senate Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee  
317 East Capitol

The Honorable Robin Vos  
Assembly Speaker  
211 West Capitol

The Honorable John Nygren  
Assembly Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee  
309 East Capitol

Dear Governor Walker and Legislative Colleagues,

We are writing to share our perspective related to the current debate on transportation funding in the upcoming 2015-17 state budget. Although tough decisions need to be made in order to budget responsibly, we ask that any resulting spending reductions be equitable and not disproportionately affect out-state areas.

As rural and out-state legislators, we recognize the competing project timelines and infrastructure needs of the diverse districts we represent. We know the decisions that are made now will have lasting impact; not only in this budget cycle but also for many years to come. Our focus is to find a workable solution that protects the long-term sustainability of Wisconsin's transportation network and state government as a whole.

This legislature has made tough choices to ensure that our state's finances are in order. We find the level of transportation bonding in the Governor's budget proposal to be untenable. Currently, \$0.17 of every \$1.00 of transportation spending goes toward debt service. Under the Governor's budget, \$0.25 of every dollar would go towards debt service. This path is simply not sustainable. If a long-term solution cannot be achieved in this budget, we do support the alternative of reining in the state's transportation spending and delaying projects until the required funds are available.

However, we want to be abundantly clear that the decision to make responsible budgeting choices should have a shared and equal impact statewide. The discussion of excluding the Southeast Megaprojects (including the Zoo Interchange) from any cuts or timeline delays would disproportionately affect our constituents and taxpayers outside of the Milwaukee area.



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As you know, safe and reliable transportation infrastructure is critical for commerce and safety across Wisconsin. We cannot allow a singular focus on Milwaukee to bring detrimental effects to industry, tourism, and ultimately to the taxpayers of Wisconsin.

As the budget process continues, we ask that both houses of the legislature and the Governor consider the statewide impact of our transportation finance decisions. We are committed to working together to ensure a sound funding system and quality infrastructure for future generations.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mary Czaja  
Member, Joint Committee on Finance

Rep. Michael Schraa  
Member, Joint Committee on Finance

Rep. Mark Born  
39<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Rob Brooks  
60<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. David Heaton  
85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Amy Loudbeck  
Member, Joint Committee on Finance

Rep. Kathy Bernier  
68<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Ed Brooks  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. James Edming  
87<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Terry Katsma  
26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



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P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

Rep. Joel Kitchens  
1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Scott Krug  
72<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Bob Kulp  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Tom Larson  
67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. John Macco  
88<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Jeff Mursau  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. John Murtha  
29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Todd Novak  
51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Al Ott  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Warren Petyk  
93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Romaine Quinn  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Keith Ripp  
42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Rep. John Spiros  
86<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. David Steffen  
4<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



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P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

Rep. Rob Swearingen  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Gary Tauchen  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt  
52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Paul Tittel  
25<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Travis Tranel  
49<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Nancy VanderMeer  
70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Tyler Vorpapel  
27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. David Murphy  
56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Lee Nerison  
96<sup>th</sup> Assembly District