



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

October 22, 2015

State Representative John Nygren
Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee
Room 309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Nygren:

We write to urge you and the members of the Joint Finance Committee to approve the Department of Transportation's request to release \$200 million in contingent bonding to supplement funding for Wisconsin's highway infrastructure. The State Highway 23 expansion project is a tremendous priority to citizens in our districts not only because of serious safety concerns but also because of the long-term economic impact the project will have for Sheboygan County. We understand that this additional funding will help prevent yet another delay to this critical project.

Although we have serious reservations about the principle of supporting the Transportation Fund with general purpose revenues, we are even more concerned that delaying this project any further will merely waste more taxpayer dollars. When the Highway 23 project was first proposed in 1999, the total cost estimate for the entire project (from Sheboygan to Fond du Lac) was approximately \$42 million. Today, that estimate is \$145 million—345 percent of the original total—and any further delays will only cause that number to increase further.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this issue in further detail.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Representative Terry Katsma.

Representative Terry Katsma
26th District
Wisconsin State Assembly

Handwritten signature of Representative Tyler Vorpagel.

Representative Tyler Vorpagel
27th District
Wisconsin State Assembly