

January 8, 2025 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Senator Eric Wimberger – (608) 266-5670

Permanent Nitschke Bridge Fix to Begin

Replacement hydraulic system secured by Senator Wimberger in \$1.2 million budget appropriation

MADISON – Senator Eric Wimberger released the following statement after issues forced another closure of the Ray Nitschke Bridge in Green Bay during last Friday morning's commute:

"It was alarming to see a Green Bay traffic artery as critical as the Ray Nitschke Bridge fall victim to yet another closure due to faulty electrical and technical hardware. Commuters shouldn't have to worry about malfunctions interfering with their drive to work, appointments, or wherever they may need to go during the day.

I fought hard to acquire \$1.2 million in funding in the most recent State Budget to help fix the Nitschke Bridge. Residents of our community should be reassured that the equipment to rehabilitate the bridge was secured by the City of Green Bay, and work is set to begin at the end of this month to fix those longstanding issues."

Opened in 1998 to replace the Main Street Bridge, Green Bay's Ray Nitschke Bridge was plagued by persistent malfunctions in recent years. As a member of the Legislature's budget-writing Joint Finance Committee, Senator Wimberger secured \$1.2 million in state funding in the 2023-2024 State Budget to bring a permanent end to the frequent bridge closures affecting local commuters. Work to repair the bridge's technical components will now begin at the end of January.

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State Senator Eric Wimberger is a former Marine Captain, attorney, and small business owner. He serves as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance and Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. He represents the 2nd Senate District, including parts of Brown, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Waupaca Counties.

A media kit for Senator Wimberger can be found <u>here</u>.