



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dianne Hesselbein

79TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR RELEASE: September 30, 2016

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REP. HESSELBEIN TO STATE LEADERS: FIX THE ROADS OR TAKE A HIKE

Wisconsin's roads and the state's transportation planning and funding systems are broken. It's time for state leaders to quit making excuses and just fix it.

"That was what I heard from local leaders last night," at Thursday's Turnout for Transportation meeting for Dane County, said Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton). "There was a high level of frustration."

The meeting at the Madison Municipal Building was one of 72 scheduled statewide by the Wisconsin Transportation Development Association. The sessions put a spotlight on the Capitol stalemate over funding between Gov. Scott Walker and the Republican-led Legislature.

The co-owner of a restaurant in the Verona construction zone said the state's off-again, on-again funding model "is anti-business. There is no predictability."

Verona Mayor Jon Hockhamer complained about bad roads impeding emergency vehicles. "We have EMS runs where we can't get down the damn road," he said.

Municipal leaders said they are doing what they can to plug potholes, but state levy limits keep them from doing more. County elderly and disabled transportation assistance services also are funded by the gas tax, which has not had an increase in 10 years.

"The message was loud and clear," Hesselbein said. "Citizens and businesses need to tell state government leaders, when it comes to roads, to fix it or take a hike."

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