



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:

State Senator Robert Cowles

State Representative Samantha Kerkman

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For More Information Contact:
Senator Cowles ~ 800.334.1465
Representative Kerkman ~ 888.529.0061

Joint Audit Committee Approves Audit of Department of Transportation

MADISON-The Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved an audit of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation State Highways Program with a unanimous vote of 10-0.

“The significance of state highways cannot be under-estimated,” said State Representative Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem) who co-chairs the Joint Audit Committee. “Many of us drive them daily, most of us have opinions about their condition or pending highway projects, and a significant examination of transportation issues hasn’t been conducted in over fifteen years.”

“This audit effort will have a big impact on our state. Our roads and infrastructure are huge costs to the state, and this audit could help to find efficiencies and best practices to better manage, design, construct, and maintain our state highways,” said Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay).

The last major audit effort of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation conducted by the Legislative Audit Bureau began in 1995 and resulted in three distinct audit reports published between December 1996 and May 1997. The audits reviewed transportation programs and revenues, the management of the highway program, and the general transportation aid program.

The approved audit of the State Highway Program would:

- examine changes and trends in revenue, expenditures, staffing, and state highway conditions over time;
- analyze and consider potential improvements to DOT’s planning, design, construction, and maintenance processes for the State Highway Program, including the traffic forecasting, construction bidding, and engineering selection processes;
- compare the estimated cost of state highway projects, as determined by DOT before project work began with the actual cost of completed projects;
- assess DOT’s performance measures, including those related to highway safety, and evaluate DOT’s use of such measures to inform its management the State Highway Program; and
- determine the extent to which DOT has implemented relevant recommendations made in our past audit reports.

The scope of the audit of the Department of Transportation State Highway Program can be found on the Legislative Audit Bureau’s website at:

http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/15-Scope_DOT.pdf

SENATOR COWLES

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-0484 • Fax: (608) 267-0304

REPRESENTATIVE KERKMAN

P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, WI 53708-8952
(608) 266-2530 • Fax (608) 282-3661