

Resolution in Support of the "Just Fix It" Campaign and Sustainable Transportation Funding

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for about 90% of the road miles in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, according to "Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin," commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

WHEREAS, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades which has adversely affected local transportation finances. According to "Filling Potholes," municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mass Transit Operating Aids and County Elderly and Disabled Transportation assistance programs are funded through the state gas tax and vehicle registration user fee system. These programs are critical to ensuring that transportation services are delivered to vulnerable citizens. Proper funding for these programs helps ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to access the workplace as well as the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's over-reliance on borrowing eats away at the state's segregated funding sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly pay debt service rather than fund transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin. Unfortunately, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin. Both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and Legislature clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors urge the Governor and Legislature to Just Fix It and agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin's transportation system. Furthermore, the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

Submitted by: TREMPEALEAU COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE.

John Aasen

Curt Skoyen

Mike Nelson

Doug Winters

Ernest Vold

First Reading at Trempealeau County Board meeting conducted on June 20, 2016.

Approved and adopted by the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors this ____ day of _____, 2016.

Dick Miller, Chairman
Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors

Paul L. Syverson, County Clerk