



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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United Assembly Republicans Caucus Announces Framework for a Transportation Solution and Tax Relief

Madison...Assembly Republicans are taking the first step in addressing the transportation funding crisis by announcing the framework for a common sense solution. The GOP legislators are calling for at least \$300 million in tax relief and reforms coupled with transportation cost savings, reforms and a corresponding increase in transportation revenue to address the long-term solvency in the transportation fund.

This proposal meets the criteria set by Governor Walker who has said he would not support increasing taxes or fees to pay for highways unless corresponding tax reductions are made elsewhere in the state budget. The Assembly Republican plan would also allow for increased funding in other priority areas such as education and workforce readiness. The budget proposal is in response to a new [Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo](#) that reveals the state will have an additional \$2 billion over the current base budget in the next budget cycle.

“We want to thank Governor Walker and his administration for their sound fiscal management and making this opportunity happen,” said Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester). “We can cut taxes, fix our roads and prioritize education: it’s a win, win, win situation, and everyone, including the governor, can keep their promises to taxpayers.”

In a letter last September, Governor Walker asked Assembly Republican leadership for specific alternatives to his transportation budget. Assembly Republicans wanted to announce their budget framework before developing the details over the next few months. GOP lawmakers will examine tax relief and reform options while at the same time look for cost savings, reforms and revenue options for the transportation budget.

“All options should be on the table as we look for a long-term solution for our transportation funding problem,” said Rep. Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna). “I think Wisconsin citizens have had enough of our bad roads and enough of this argument; we need a real solution.”

“As fiscal conservatives, we will be true to our beliefs and do what’s right for taxpayers and the future of Wisconsin. This is, by no means, an impending spending spree. We want to return tax dollars to hardworking families and fix the roads that they depend on,” said Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette).

Assembly Republicans have taken the lead on the transportation funding issue. Last year, they released a report called, [No Easy Answers](#), that explored the transportation problem in depth.

“With this positive economic outlook, we will take the opportunity to restore fund integrity in order to make the transportation fund solvent and move away from using general fund revenue

for transportation. So we can further pursue tax reform and our commitment to education,” said Rep. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield). “General fund taxes should support the general fund and transportation funds should be self-sufficient.”

“The time is right to fix our transportation budget problems,” said Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton). “We will explore every avenue and every reform so taxpayers can be assured that the result will be a long-term sustainable solution.”

“This proves that the conservative reforms created by Wisconsin Republicans and Governor Walker, have contributed to a surplus and produced new revenues for the upcoming budget,” said Rep. Robert Brooks (R-Saukville). “This is a tremendous opportunity to, again, significantly reduce the tax burden for hard-working families. In so doing, we are able to allocate resources towards our transportation infrastructure, without increasing the state debt.”

“I have heard from so many people from my district and southeastern Wisconsin that they want to see tax relief,” said Rep. Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem). “This is a great opportunity to provide that needed relief while also addressing an important infrastructure problem in our state.”

“I am happy our conservative reforms over the past several years have put our state in a strong enough financial position that we can continue to reduce our tax burden while also addressing our long-term transportation funding needs,” said Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam).

“Coming from a rural district, I’ve seen how important good roads are. The southeast projects are important, but outstate areas are hurting too. It’s crucial that we find a sustainable, long-term solution. The first rule of getting stuck in a hole is, stop digging – we can’t borrow our way out of a hole in the transportation budget,” said Rep. Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake). “This state budget is the perfect opportunity to both give hard-working families a tax break and make sure that we’re not dealing with the same problems down the road.”

“This is great news for Wisconsin taxpayers and reaffirms the positive direction our state is going in,” said Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah).

“Our reforms continue to move Wisconsin in the right direction,” said Rep. Dan Knodl (R-Germantown). “I look forward to reducing the tax burden even further, and having the opportunity to make available the needed transportation dollars.”

Assembly Republicans look forward to working with Governor Walker and his administration on a budget plan that exceeds everyone’s expectations by delivering sizeable tax cuts and better roads for future generations.

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