

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Madison, WI** (Jan. 26, 2017) – Following the release of the Legislative Audit Bureau’s audit of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Chris Klein, President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin, issued the following statement:

“Today’s release of the Department of Transportation audit demonstrates a few things. First, there will be no easy answer – the continuous cost savings identified will not solve our transportation funding shortfall. Additionally, the report showed that delays are significantly adding to the costs of projects. Issues exposed by the audit demonstrate that there are deeper problems with our transportation funding than expected. It is clear that transportation funding will remain one of the most critical issues facing our state.

Our members know the importance of cost savings through efficient and sustainable design. These designs can extend the life of a project and save money by reducing maintenance needs. As business owners and professionals who work on and utilize Wisconsin’s transportation network daily, we thank DOT for working so hard to minimize its budget inefficiencies. The initiatives already instituted by Governor Walker have saved money across the board, especially in transportation. We look forward to working with the Governor and legislature in addressing the long term solvency of the fund in the most efficient way possible for Wisconsin taxpayers.”

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*American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin members are designing and protecting Wisconsin’s future with professional engineering solutions. It is the only organization in the state that represents the business side of the professional engineering industry. ACEC WI represents 81 premier engineering firms with more than 160 offices across Wisconsin and affiliate members that provide support to the industry. Founded in 1958, ACEC WI supports member firms that employ more than 3,500 engineers, architects, planners, geologists, soil scientists, hydrologists, surveyors and other professionals. For more information, visit [www.acecwi.org](http://www.acecwi.org).*