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January 26, 2017   Rep. Gary Hebl, (608) 266-7678

Representative Hebl Responds to Audit of State Highway Program

(MADISON) – Rep. Gary Hebl today responded to the audit of the State Highway Program by the Wisconsin's Legislative Audit Bureau.

"The audit of the State Highway Program confirms what we already knew- that Wisconsin's roads are deteriorating at an alarming rate," Hebl said. "The last six years have shown a marked decline, and the report states that fewer than half of Wisconsin's highways are now considered in 'good' condition. It's unacceptable."

 Under Governor Walker's administration, just 41% of Wisconsin highways are considered to be in "good" condition, a 12% decline from when he took office. Wisconsin had a chance to address budget issues by accepting federal money for other projects, leaving more money for the highway budget. However, those funds were rejected. Hebl said that those in charge must take responsibility for this blunder.

"It starts at the top," Hebl continued. "Governor Walker and Wisconsin Republicans decided against accepting federal money for health care and broadband service. Had they decided to accept these funds, we could have been able to better budget our transportation needs. As is, we are now left wondering where we will be able to get the money to fix our crumbling roads."

To his credit, Department of Transportation Secretary Dave Ross says that this audit will be used as a guide to increase efficiency, although his talk may be too little and too late.

"I have had numerous constituents contact my office to complain about the condition of roads in my district," Hebl finished. "This is an issue that impacts every Wisconsin citizen. I appreciate the DOT Secretary promising improvements, although judging by the state of our roads we need more than talk. We must be able to back up that talk with action to show Wisconsin's citizens that we understand their needs and are ready to work to fulfill those promises."

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