



# KEITH RIPP

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 42<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **REPRESENTATIVE KEITH RIPP'S RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AUDIT ON THE STATE HIGHWAY PROGRAM**

*The Legislative Audit Bureau released their report today identifying numerous cost-saving measures with specific recommendations to improve the program*

**Madison, WI** – Since October 2015, the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) was tasked with the responsibility to conduct an audit of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) state highway program. The LAB issued their detailed analysis that uncovered several inconsistent, ineffective practices in this program.

"I appreciate the LAB's commitment to providing an independent perspective on WisDOT's procedures for the state highway program," said State Representative Keith Ripp (R-Lodi). "As the Assembly Transportation Committee Chair, I take LAB's findings seriously, and this study should be used as a platform to fix these identified problems now, this legislative session, not down the road."

The LAB's audit (report 17-2) provided a complete overview of the program and focused on particular issues in the areas of WisDOT's planning, engineering, construction, and performance measurements. WisDOT spent \$2.1 billion on state highways in fiscal year 2015-16, which is a 190.2 percent increase in funding from fiscal year 1996-97, but good highway conditions throughout the state are steadily decreasing from 53.5 percent in 2010 to 41 percent in 2015 based on WisDOT's pavement condition index.

"The larger concern is that long delays in construction plans equals increased costs and fewer completed road projects," said Ripp. "Wisconsin's infrastructure system depends on both investing in the Transportation Fund and reforming WisDOT's policies for this program to meet our state's current and future needs."

The LAB made 24 recommendations that would significantly reduce costs and inefficiencies in the WisDOT program as well as 5 state statute modifications the Legislature could consider.

"I am confident this report will be discussed at great length as we begin the biennial budget process," said Ripp. "I look forward to working together with my colleagues and WisDOT to implement these proposals because I am dedicated to ensuring taxpayer dollars are not wasted."

For more information about LAB's report 17-2, please call their office at (608) 266-2818 or by visiting their website at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab>.

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