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## **GOVERNOR EVERS' BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD RECEIVE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT**

(MADISON, Wis.) – As the Joint Finance Committee heads into the homestretch of its public listening sessions on the budget, the Wisconsin Building Trades Council (WBTC) and its 40,000 members want to make it clear that Governor Evers' peoples' budget should receive bipartisan support.

“Wisconsinites are tired of political infighting and gamesmanship. Our elected officials should work together to find real solutions to Wisconsin’s problems,” said Dave Branson, president of the WBTC. Governor Evers’ budget makes significant strides towards fixing our crumbling infrastructure and contains important provisions protecting taxpayers.

Governor Evers’ \$2.5 billion capital budget includes renovation and new building projects in the University of Wisconsin system throughout the state, local construction projects and a new state office building in Milwaukee. “We cannot ignore our public buildings any longer,” said Branson. “The backlog of major maintenance and improvement projects have to be funded. If they aren’t, the taxpayer will pay more in the long run as our public buildings deteriorate past the point of fixing.”

The Governor’s budget proposal also includes an 8 cent gas tax increase, but that increase is offset by eliminating the 9% hidden charge on gasoline caused by the Minimum Markup law. “Study after study shows that Wisconsin’s roads and bridges are some of the worst in the country because there isn’t enough money to maintain and improve the roads,” Branson said. “The Minimum Markup hidden charge goes into the pockets of big businesses rather than into our public roads. That’s not right.”

A [poll released last month](#) found that taxpayers agree with Governor Evers. A majority support a gas tax increase that is offset by Minimum Markup repeal. And 90% of voters understand that good roads are important to the Wisconsin economy. “This is not a partisan issue,” said Branson. “Many of our neighboring states understand this and have recently increased their gas tax. Wisconsin shouldn’t be lagging its neighbors, but it is.”

Finally, Governor Evers' budget includes \$78 million in funding for the state's [Broadband Expansion Grant Program](#). The goal is to provide all homes and businesses in Wisconsin with high-speed internet by 2025. "The Governor understands that businesses, schools and homes located throughout the State need high-speed internet," said Branson. "High-speed internet shouldn't only be available in urban areas. This much needed increased funding will improve accessibility."

"I cannot stress enough that Wisconsinites want solutions, not excuses and political jockeying. Bipartisan solutions to public infrastructure needs are what voters of Wisconsin, including the WBTC's 40,000 members, want and deserve," said Branson.

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The Wisconsin Building Trades Council is comprised of 15 Building Trades International unions and represents 40,000 building trades members in the state and is committed to building a skilled workforce for a growing Wisconsin.