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DRIVE Coalition Recommends “Common Sense Reforms” For Wisconsin’s Roads & Bridges

Group’s 4 guiding principles a response to DOT audit

(MADISON, WI) – DRIVE supporters today released a set of guiding principles and common sense reforms to for the legislature to consider as they put together the transportation budget. The recent decision by the Joint Committee on Finance to begin the transportation budget debate from base provides a great opportunity for lawmakers to align transportation project priorities with predictable funding to ensure projects are done in a timely and cost-effective manner according to Tom Diehl, president of Wisconsin's **DRIVE Coalition** (*DRIVE: Devote Resources, Invest for a Vibrant Economy*).

“Like we’ve said from day one – good, well-maintained transportation infrastructure leads to more jobs, a strong economy and increased public safety, Diehl said. That’s our first guiding principle. We know many Wisconsin’s roads are bad and getting worse, and now is the time to do something.”

DRIVE recommends the following four (4) guiding principles: (see attached document in its entirety)

1. Improving overall road and bridge conditions
2. Creating a long-term transportation plan
3. Increasing transparency at WisDOT
4. Reducing costly construction delays

“Creating a 10-year transportation plan with project priorities aligned with predictable funding sources will ensure projects are completed in a timely manner,” said Steve Baas, vice president of DRIVE. “Businesses respond to predictability, one way to ensure healthy competition is by having a long-range transportation plan.”

"The three pillars of Wisconsin's economy are manufacturing, agriculture and tourism; and all three pillars depend on good, safe roads," said Jim Holte, DRIVE treasurer. "Reducing costly construction delays on rural and urban roads and bridges while also improving transparency of all costs associated with each WisDOT projects ensures policymakers and the public that taxpayer dollars are being spent in the most cost-effective manner possible.

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PAGE 2-2-2-2 “DRIVE” recommends guiding principles post-audit - *continued*

“We are encouraged to hear lawmakers are working on a comprehensive transportation solution and trust they will develop a plan that adequately meets the needs of both rural and urban citizens and business,” said Bill McCoshen, DRIVE Executive Director.

Consider:

- Each year, \$264 billion in goods are shipped **from** sites in Wisconsin, and another \$236 billion in goods are shipped **to** sites in Wisconsin.
- Forty-two percent of Wisconsin's roads are in mediocre to poor condition.
- DELAYS COST MONEY - Project delays mean more taxpayer money must be spent on short-aid fixes such as temporary overlays or patchwork.
- Top job-creating states invest in infrastructure: Georgia has won the prestigious Gold Medal as the nation’s top business climate from **Site Selector Magazine** four years in a row. Not surprising, Georgia has created 540,500 new private sector jobs since January 2011. Wisconsin ranked 25th on the 2016 survey of business climates.



DRIVE coordinates and implements a legislative advocacy strategy to enact a sustainable, long-term transportation plan that will keep Wisconsin's economy strong. Members express their concerns to policymakers as work on the 2017-18 transportation budget continues.

DRIVE is co-chaired by Tom Diehl, co-owner of Tommy Bartlett Incorporated in the Wisconsin Dells; Steve Baas, Senior Vice President of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce and Jim Holte, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. DRIVE sponsor members are listed at left.

For more information on the DRIVE COALITION, please visit our website at:

www.wisconsindrive.com

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