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## Murphy Calls for Appleton I-41 Fix

APPLETON, WI — Representative Dave Murphy (R–Greenville), is calling on the state to fund improvements to Interstate 41 from Highway 15 to Green Bay, where I-41 narrows from three lanes to two lanes in this span, resulting in traffic congestion and frequently crashes. Murphy stated, “The first and most critical leg of this project is through Appleton from Highway 15 to Highway 441 North when it comes to traffic congestion and frequency of crashes. This stretch includes the most recent traffic fatality on I-41 when a rollover occurred.”

Murphy became a champion of I-41 improvements in early 2017, when Appleton business leaders brought their concerns to him. One local business executive commented that the freeway in front of their business comes to a standstill on a regular basis.

Murphy began promoting the necessity for improvements to I-41 in his weekly newsletter to his constituents. “Freeway projects in Wisconsin are a major undertaking and I knew I would need the voters behind me to get this thing off the ground. I had my staff work closely with regional transportation officials to get the data on what was happening on that particular stretch of road,” stated Murphy.

This June, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission issued their [annual report](#), which states that they are, “currently working to show the safety concerns on I-41 between the 6-lane and 4-lane section,” by the Appleton Timber Rattler’s Stadium. A graphic highlighting crashes on this span of I-41 displays a clear peak in crashes where the interstate goes from six to four lanes of traffic.

In November 2017, Murphy met with Governor Walker about I-41 improvements, noting that “Interstate 41 is a critical artery for the Fox Valley and about 40 percent of Wisconsin’s overall economic activity is located in the eight counties along the I-41 corridor between Milwaukee and Green Bay.”

After meeting with Department of Transportation Secretary Ross in May 2018, Murphy was told that DOT was open to the idea but that a budget enumeration would be required to fund the project. “I’ve spent this session meeting with community leaders, state transportation officials, the governor, and my colleagues in the legislature about the necessity of fixing I-41 and I’m seeing a groundswell of support. Getting improvements to I-41 funded as soon as possible is my top priority as a legislator. It would mean so much to our community in economic improvement, and even more importantly, in saving lives.”

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