



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1000 Friends of Wisconsin released the following statement in response to the action by the Joint Finance Committee on the state transportation budget.

“1000 Friends welcomes the responsible decision by the Joint Finance Committee not to enumerate the expansion of Interstate 94 East-West in Milwaukee. This project would have had a disastrous impact on neighborhoods in the city, in addition to costing Wisconsin taxpayers over \$1 billion in capital costs and millions more in maintenance in the future.

The organization also commends the increase in funding for local road and bridge repair. The increase while small is a welcome recognition of our local roads crisis and will provide municipalities, towns and villages with some relief as they struggle to maintain their infrastructure.

However, there are several retrograde steps in the budget that will harm Wisconsin communities. A new fee on electric vehicles and fuel efficient hybrids will unfairly penalize those making better transportation choices. There are also no new investments in public transit, walking and biking infrastructure—all of which are key to making the state an attractive destination for businesses, young professionals and seniors looking for a high quality of life.

The transportation funding crisis is a result of our misplaced spending priorities and not one of revenues. This budget is a good first step towards moving away from wasteful and destructive highway capacity expansion projects and investing the savings to repair our crumbling local infrastructure.”

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