



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assembly GOP Leaders Statement on DOT Budget Request

Madison... Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester), Majority Leader Rep. Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna), JFC Co-Chair Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Assistant Majority Leader Dan Knodl (R-Germantown) released the following statement in regards to the budget request from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

“This budget request falls short of addressing the long-term funding crisis in our transportation budget. It is a political solution, not a real solution.

“Safe and reliable roads and bridges are essential to Wisconsin’s economy. While we welcome additional dollars to support local roads, it should not come at the expense of delaying important state projects which will cost more down the road. Not only will delays result in much higher costs, but they’ll also lead to much more dramatic fee or tax increases in the future.

“It is more conservative to pay for projects today than it is to borrow the money and make our children pay the price. But for far too long under Democratic and Republican leadership, the state has relied too heavily on bonding. According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Wisconsin will spend roughly 20 cents on every transportation dollar on debt service for this fiscal year. It is projected to increase under this proposal.

“As stated in the Assembly Republican Forward Agenda, we will first look to enact cost savings and make the necessary reforms before any discussion of raising additional revenues. We look forward to a robust, public conversation that should include every option available to address our state’s long-term transportation needs.”

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