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Wisconsin Transportation Woes Continue
By Rep. Gary Hebl

In 2017 Wisconsin was ranked #49 in quality roads. Just last month, a report said that 55 percent of Wisconsin roads are in poor condition and 19 percent are in mediocre condition. Rough roads are one of the reasons Wisconsin ranks behind Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Ohio in quality of infrastructure.

During almost eight years in office, Governor Walker has had almost no plan for fixing our state's transportation issues. Democrats have been adamant that Wisconsin needs a solution to fix crumbling infrastructure, but it is not on the priority list of the majority party.

Unfortunately, Governor Walker is trying to spin a different tale in an election year. He has touted that the Milwaukee Zoo Interchange construction was done on time and on budget. However, what he isn't mentioning is the north leg of the Zoo Interchange project is not only unfinished, but far behind schedule. The work for the entire project was supposed to be done by 2019, but it now looks as though the project won't be done until at least 2023, with an ever-increasing price tag to go along with it.

Even Governor Walker's own former Transportation Secretary has taken the governor to task over his characterization of Wisconsin's highway system, saying if we went with Governor Walker's ideas, one of which includes declining to add lanes on road rebuilds, the roads would be "obsolete the day they are built." Wisconsin needs to build its infrastructure for the future but our governor can't even build one for today.

Funding for transportation has steadily declined since Governor Walker took office. The Cap Times, citing a DOT report, put it plainly: "From fiscal year 2011-2012, funding for major highway development decreased by 31.2 percent, highway improvement funding fell by 23.8 percent and local road funding fell 13.4 percent."

The Republicans have no plan in place for transportation. Seeing his vulnerability, Walker is frantically trying to change the narrative. In the lead up to the election, he is going to make increasingly wild promises to hide how little he has done for transportation in the last eight years.

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