



# John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Assembly Transportation Committee Discusses DOT Budget

**Madison** – On Tuesday, Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) released the following statement regarding the Assembly Transportation Committee’s review of the Department of Transportation’s (WisDOT) budget request:

“I can appreciate that Sen. Kapenga acknowledged we need to find a long-term solution to our transportation funding problem during a conference call yesterday; however, the plan offered by Sens. Kapenga and Stroebel to further rely on bonding is not the answer.

“We have been borrowing to pay for our roads for too long. Continued borrowing will only increase the financial burden that our children and grandchildren will face. If Sens. Stroebel and Kapenga get their way, Wisconsin would approve an additional \$500 million in bonding – an amount that wouldn’t even begin to fix our state’s roads. This is not a solution. It’s an attempt at a quick fix that isn’t financially sustainable and would put Wisconsin drivers at risk.

“Instead of advocating to continue an unsustainable funding structure, we need to work together with members of the legislature, the WisDOT, our local units of government, and Wisconsin drivers statewide to identify a prudent, common sense resolution to our transportation funding problem. It’s for this reason that efforts like today’s Assembly Transportation Committee hearing are key to finding the best long-term solution.

“WisDOT Secretary Gottlieb testified before the committee this morning and helped shed even more light on how important it is to prioritize our infrastructure. When questioned what effect the status quo would have on Wisconsin’s road conditions, Secretary Gottlieb stated that our roads would deteriorate even more. Moreover, the Secretary reiterated the need for additional resources to help fix our roads.

“Moving forward, I hope to continue this transparent dialogue as we discuss all possible solutions to this problem. I hope all of my colleagues in the legislature are willing to come to the table to talk about what can be done to find department savings, reduce government red tape, and identify resources for our infrastructure. It’s time to stop kicking the can down the road.”

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