



DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

December 21, 2017

Secretary Dave Ross
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Secretary Ross:

Subsequent to the Joint Finance Committee's consideration of August 2017 Special Session Assembly Bill 1, the legislation authorizing Foxconn, there have been several revelations regarding how various pieces of the project will be funded. Namely, that \$134 million in state highway rehabilitation funding (or 17% of the amount allocated for the entire state over the 2017-19 biennium) intended for state highway projects around the state is being diverted for road improvements near the Foxconn site. This is a previously undisclosed subsidy and is in addition to the \$252.4 million in general obligation bonds being used for the I-94 North-South corridor to support the Foxconn project.

In order to better understand the impact this additional funding will have on Wisconsin's transportation funding crisis, we would like the answers to the following questions:

- Where is the state highway rehabilitation funding being used for Foxconn coming from?
 - In his statements, Governor Walker's spokesperson seems to point to funding that has already been accounted for in the 2017-19 budget, and thus cannot be used for this purpose.
- Why was this state funding for Foxconn not previously disclosed to legislators or taxpayers?
- How will this impact and/or delay previously planned rehabilitation projects on state highways?
 - What specific projects and communities will be affected and how much funding will each project lose?

JFC passed a budget that included funding for state rehabilitation projects, not Foxconn. Additionally, if any money is being redirected, we request that you appear before JFC to discuss this in detail. We believe that Wisconsin taxpayers deserve full transparency about where this funding is coming from and how it will affect their local roads, which are in desperate need of repair.

Thank you for your timely response to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Sen. Lena Taylor
4th Senate District

Sen. Jon Erpenbach
27th Senate District

Rep. Chris Taylor
76th Assembly District

Rep. Katrina Shankland
71st Assembly District

cc: Sen. Alberta Darling, Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair
Rep. John Nygren, Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair