

July 21, 2015 (Village Board Meeting)

RESOLUTION 2015- 23, TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT COALITION (Wisconsin League of Municipalities)

Discussion:

- Based on comments made by Matuszek under Public Appearances, further consideration was suggested

Gast / Harris moved to postpone adoption of Resolution, 2015-23 to the next board meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Dart / Green moved to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Debbie Baenen, Clerk-Treasurer

DRAFT

Resolution 2015 - 23

Transportation Investment Coalition Resolution

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for about 90% of the road miles in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, according to a report commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

WHEREAS, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades which has adversely affected local transportation finances. According to the LGI study, municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012. In only two states did local transportation spending increase less than in Wisconsin during 2000-2011; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's over-reliance on bonding eats away at the state's segregated funding sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly go pay debt service rather than fund local transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin. Unfortunately, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin. Both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and Legislature clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board urge the Governor and Legislature to agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately fund Wisconsin's transportation system. Furthermore, the Village directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every month that state and local repairs are deferred increases the cost to the taxpayers.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Village of Allouez on this 4th day of August, 2015.

Randall L. Gast, Village President

ATTEST:

Debra M. Baenen, Village Clerk-Treasurer

July 21, 2015

RE: agenda item 11

This is lengthy, but please bear with me.

I request that you not pass this resolution or, at the very least, table it until you receive better and more accurate information.

First of all the highway fund would not be short if Governor Doyle had not "stolen" billions from the fund and then announced that he had balanced the state budget, but that's neither here nor there now.

Next, the timing of this resolution is off base because the legislature has already passed its next two year budget and I doubt that there is going to be much interest by our lawmakers in addressing this issue again so soon.

The DOT should look inside itself first to reduce the amount of money it wastes on very low priority projects.

Two major ones that i have noticed are the emergency closure gates that are being installed all over the state at entrance ramps to our interstate and other four lane highways. This a senseless waste off money. The vast majority of theses gate will seldom or never be used. There are two a block away from my house that have been there about six years and they have never been used to the best of my knowledge. With some difficulty a few months ago I did finally obtain data from the DOT about these devices. More than one hundred have been installed in our NE Wisconsin DOT district alone, and I was unable to obtain any info about the remainder of the state. They cost about \$ 12,500 each which translates to \$ 12,500,000 wasted tax dollars in our area of the state alone.

I have been given two different reasons so far for why theses devices were installed. The first was in the case of accident the access could be blocked. There are much cheaper ways to accomplish this. The access ramp could be temporarily blocked by a aquad car with its lights flashing, or police tape could be used until public works people with barricades arrived. In Brown county that would be less than twenty minutes. Or the the gates could be like the ones that have been used in Europe for more than eighty years They are manually operated with a counter balance weight. I'm sure you have seen them in the old WWI movies. In fact, we had them at the entrance gate to my Air Force base in Germany in the 1950's My guess is the cost

would be between one tenth to one fifth of the electronic ones.

The other reason given is so that the access ramp can be blocked in the event of a major snow storm.

In such an event there would already be numerous snowplows on the road whose drivers could erect barricades.

Next; you may or may not have noticed around Appleton, Oshkosh, Milwaukee and now Shawano Avenue, that there have been blue mileage markers installed in the median every fifth of a mile at a cost of over \$ 1000.00 per mile. Another unnecessary expense. The excuse given is to better locate a position in the event of an accident. In today's era of GPS and cell phones??? Additionally, the median placement makes them very hard to see at night.

Next; the proposed resolution paragraph nine is misleading, and in fact is not true. Wisconsin's registration fee is about the 12th highest in the USA, and its gasoline tax is about the sixth highest. I did not have enough time to completely confirm these rankings, but they are close.

Finally, kind of related to this highway waste issue, I have had a driver's license for 67 years and I have driven in thirty six of our United States and have ridden in a vehicle in another seven. I have also driven in seven foreign countries and ridden in another four. With all this driving/riding exposure i wish to state that the new Shawano/41 interchange is the worst one I have ever seen. It is poorly marked and very confusing. I also counted at least eight roundabouts in the immediate vicinity. Talk about overkill. In fact, I think the whole interchange is overdone considering the amount of traffic I've noticed over the years.

In conclusion, I do not profess to be a traffic engineer, but I began my government service career in the Bureau of Traffic Engineering in the city of Milwaukee for nearly four years. That experience , combined with the twenty four years as the Allouez Town/Village administrator should give me a little more credibility in traffic matters than a citizen you might meet on the street.

Thanks for listening

Clarence Matuszek

Debbie Baenen

From: League of Wisconsin Municipalities <witynski@lwm-info.ccsend.com> on behalf of League of Wisconsin Municipalities <witynski@lwm-info.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 1:41 PM
To: Debbie Baenen
Subject: Capitol Buzz -- Model Resolution on Transportation Funding

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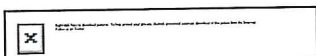
League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Capitol Buzz

June 30, 2015

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Municipalities and the State's Transportation Budget: What can you do now?

Several weeks ago legislative leaders in both houses announced transportation tax and fee increases are off the table following Governor Walker's veto threats.

Over the last several weeks legislators have been debating different plans to reduce the \$1.3 billion in transportation bonding offered by the Governor. It is likely the Governor's proposed bonding will be reduced by cutting spending by \$500 to \$800 million.

Legislators have publicly disagreed over what state highway projects should be delayed if the transportation budget is cut by \$500 to \$800 million. Over 30 Republican members of the State Assembly recently sent a letter to the Governor, Senator Fitzgerald and Senator Darling stating if cuts are the only way forward, they need to be administered evenly across the state, including the Zoo Interchange. GOP leaders in the Senate have argued that the Zoo Interchange must remain on schedule.

While the League continues to advocate for new transportation revenues, we also believe the bonding levels proposed in the Governor's budget are unsustainable.

What is not being discussed in the media is that cuts of the magnitude being discussed will also certainly impact local government aids. Municipalities should

expect to see cuts to General Transportation Aids and transit aids in this budget absent gas tax or other revenue increases.

The League is encouraging all cities and villages to act to bring this important issue to the forefront and share with us specific projects that will be impacted if this level of cuts is realized and no sustainable funding source is identified.

The League, working in conjunction with the Transportation Development Association, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and other groups, has created a sample resolution calling attention to the need to properly fund transportation in the state. We encourage all municipalities to pass the resolution and forward it on to the League via email to Gail Sumi at gsumi@lwm-info.org.

- [See the sample resolution on transportation here.](#)
- [View the Local Government Institute's three-minute white board video on funding local transportation here. \(Be sure to share!\)](#)
- [See a story here from the Marshfield News Herald on how one community will be impacted by transportation cuts.](#)

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