

RESOLUTION NO.: 17—2016-17

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 The local government in Wisconsin is responsible for approximately 90% of the road
2 miles in the state. Wisconsin’s diverse economy is dependent upon county and town
3 roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state. According to
4 “Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin,”
5 commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of
6 Wisconsin’s highways is now in the bottom third of the country. State funding for local
7 roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with the costs over the past several decades
8 which have adversely affected local transportation finances. According to “Filling
9 Potholes,” municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000
10 to \$227 in 2012. Mass Transit Operating Aids and County Elderly and Disabled
11 Transportation assistance programs are funded through the state gas tax and vehicle
12 registration user fee system. These programs are critical to ensuring that transportation
13 services are delivered to vulnerable citizens. Proper funding for these programs helps
14 ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to access the workplace as well as the
15 marketplace. Levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration
16 of state funding. Wisconsin’s over-reliance on borrowing eats away at the state’s
17 segregated funding sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which
18 increasingly pay debt service rather than fund transportation needs. Safety is a primary
19 concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin. Unfortunately,
20 according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had
21 347 non-interstate rural road fatalities in 2013.

22
23 The Outagamie County Board recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is
24 the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy
25 of Wisconsin. Both local and state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our
26 economy to grow. From a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly
27 less than any of our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and
28 vehicle registration fee.

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

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34 Local government and business officials agree that the state has been neglecting its
35 transportation system for too long. The Wisconsin Transportation Development
36 Association has kicked off the *Just Fix It* campaign, a multifaceted public relations
37 campaign with the purpose of building grassroots support for responsible, sustainable
38 transportation funding.

39
40 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Highway, Recycling and Solid Waste
41 Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does urge the Governor
2 and Legislature to Just Fix It and agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level
3 of bonding and adjusts user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin's transportation system,
4 and

5 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
6 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Highway Commissioner and the Outagamie County Lobbyist
7 for distribution to the Governor and State Legislature.

8 Dated this ____ day of June 2016

9 Respectfully Submitted,

10 HIGHWAY, RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE
11 COMMITTEE
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17 _____
18 Don DeGroot

James McDaniel

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22 _____
23 Bob Buchman

Ken Vanden Heuvel

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27 _____
28 Dennis Clegg

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31 Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____

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33 Signed: _____
34 Board Chairperson

County Clerk

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36 Approved: _____

Vetoed: _____

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39 Signed: _____
40 County Executive