

City of Waukesha, Wisconsin

Resolution No. _____

A Resolution to urge the Governor and Legislature to find Sustainable Solutions for Transportation Funding

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 "Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin," 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 "Filling Potholes," municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, high quality and fast transit systems are critical to attracting businesses and people to urban areas, yet state funding for transit is less today than it was five years ago; 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 borrowing eats away at the state's segregated funding sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly pay debt service rather than fund 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 Waukesha City Council 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 and that 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 our state and local roads as well as local transit systems will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Waukesha City Council to urge the Governor and Legislature to #JustFixItWI and agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a reduced level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin's multi-modal transportation system. Furthermore, the City of Waukesha City Council directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators, Governor Scott Walker and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

Adopted this 6th day of December, 2016

Signed:

Shawn N. Reilly, Mayor

Attest:

Gina Kozlik