Wisconsin’s Transportation Budget

Misplaced Priorities, Unmet Needs and Better Alternatives
Presenters

• Peter Skopec – WISPIRG
• Steve Hiniker – 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
• Stephanie Gyldenvand – WISDOM
• Elizabeth Ward – Sierra Club John Muir Chapter
Proposed Executive Budget (2015-16)

- Increases bonding to $1.3 BILLION
- $1.46 billion for big-ticket highway projects
  - $623 million for *Southeast Wisconsin Megaprojects*
  - $836 million for *Major Highway Projects*
- $3.41 billion in state highway maintenance
- $2.6 billion for local reimbursements
Our Recommendations

- Cut unnecessary highway projects
- Invest in local transportation options
  - local road maintenance
  - transit
  - biking and walking
- Reduce bonding
Crumbling Local Infrastructure

Steve Hiniker, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
Local Road Crisis Across Wisconsin

38% of all local roads in the state in poor shape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WisDOT Region</th>
<th>Roads in poor condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Not Enough Funding for Crumbling Local Roads

- **Local Road and Bridge Assistance**
- **General Transportation Aids**

11% decrease

45% decrease
Critical Transportation Options for Vibrant Communities: Transit, Biking and Walking

Stephanie Gyldenvand, WISDOM
Public Transit Systems Hurt by **10%** Cut in 2012

- Demand for efficient transit remains high in the state – but persistent cuts make it hard to provide high quality service.

- In Milwaukee, cuts have resulted in **22%** fewer annual bus miles between 2000 and 2012.

- Transit systems are not connecting workers to jobs, hurting the economy.
Changing Demographics Mean Changing Demand

Percent of Population Age 60+

2015

2025

Wis. -21.9%
U.S. -20.8%

Wis. – 26.9%
U.S. – 25.1%
Biking and Walking Infrastructure

2014 TAP Projects

- Osceola sidewalk improvements,
- The East-Central Wisconsin Regional Safe Routes to School Program,
- Safe Routes to School for Webster Elementary in Allouez,
- The St. Croix County Bicycle and Pedestrian plan,
- A bicycle-pedestrian facility in Waukesha, and
- 22 other projects.
Cut Unnecessary Highway Projects

Peter Skopec, WISPIRG
$1.459 Billion in Highway Expansion in Proposed State Budget

Traffic has been declining across the state since 2005. However, spending on highway expansion has been going up.
Highway Projects Drive Increase in Transportation Debt

The proposed executive budget calls for over $1 Billion in bonding for major highway projects

Source: State of Wisconsin, Executive Budget 2015-16
Highway Projects Drive Increase in Transportation Debt

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4 Major Highway Projects Have No Merit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Projected Traffic Growth</th>
<th>Actual Traffic Trends</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Highway 50</td>
<td>+103% (2011-2040)</td>
<td>+13% (2002-2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Highway 15</td>
<td>+61.2% (2007-2040)</td>
<td>-22.9% (2000-2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Highway 23</td>
<td>+54.5% (2014-2040)</td>
<td>-4.9% (2000-2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-90 to IL Border</td>
<td>+29% (2000 - 2010)</td>
<td>+1% (2000-2012)</td>
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</table>

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Environmental Impact Statements and Continuous Count Database
Hwy 23- Groundbreaking Lawsuit

• All highway expansion projects should be postponed until traffic projections are studied and confirmed.
I-94 Enumeration in Budget
Our Solution
Elizabeth Ward,
Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter
Our Solution

• No increased taxes ✓
• Reduces debt ✓
• Cuts wasteful spending ✓
Cut Unnecessary Projects

Nearly **$500 million** in savings from reducing wasteful spending

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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2015-17 Biennium Savings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Highway 50</td>
<td><strong>$14 million</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>State Highway 15</td>
<td><strong>$19.4 million</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Highway 23</td>
<td><strong>$60.9 million</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I-90 to IL Border</td>
<td><strong>$405.4 million</strong></td>
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Invest Savings In Real Needs

• Increase funding for repairs to local roads - $80 million
• Increase transit support and restore funding cuts from 2011-2013 budget – $37.6 million
• Maintain Transportation Alternatives Program - $2 million
### Highway Project

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### Program

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<th>Initiative</th>
<th>2015-17 Cost</th>
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<td>Increase funding for repairs to local roads</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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Money Saved by Cutting Wasteful Highway Projects: $499.7 million
Re-Investment in Local Transportation Improvement: -$119.6 million
Money Left to Reduce Bonding: $380.1 million
Questions?