



JFC Budget

## Joint Finance Unanimously Approves Transportation Budget

Yesterday, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) voted unanimously on a motion largely in keeping with Governor Walker's proposed transportation budget and a plan to address the projected shortfall in the state's transportation fund.

The \$63.5 million shortfall was the result of revenue reestimates due primarily to lower than anticipated gas tax receipts and vehicle registration fees.

To address this projected deficit, JFC approved the following modifications to the Governor's budget proposal:

- I-94 North-South: Reduce funding by \$19 million to reflect a delay for the work on the Ryan Road Interchange.
- Zoo Interchange: Reduce funding by \$14 million to delay a portion of the reconstruction of the interchange.
- High-Cost Bridge Program (Hoan and Lake Interchange): Reduce funding for the high-cost bridge program by \$10 million. During the biennium, the department may use other highway programs to cover any costs of the Hoan Bridge. However, the department may not spend more than \$10 million from those appropriations without approval from the JFC through a s. 13.10 request.
- Major Highway Development: Reduce funding by \$7.3 million.
- State Highway Rehabilitation: Reduce funding by \$12.3 million.
- Highway Maintenance: Reduce \$55 million increase in routine maintenance by \$2.5 million.
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Grant Program: Move \$900 million in federal funding from CMAQ to the State Highway Rehabilitation Program and make a corresponding reduction in SEG funding.

Comments from Secretary Gottlieb in the press state the above reductions for the Milwaukee area megaprojects would move back the start of intermediate stages of the projects but shouldn't delay their overall completion dates as long as adequate funding is provided in the next budget.

In addition, the JFC made the following increases in program funding:

- Mass Transit Aids: Increase funding 4% beginning in calendar year 2014. The program would be funded with General Purpose Revenues in the second year of the biennium.
- Paratransit: Provide \$250,000 annually for paratransit aid for a total annual funding of \$2,750,000.
- General Transportation Aids (Towns): Increase mileage rate 2.4% from \$2,117 to \$2,167 in calendar year 2015.

- General Transportation Aids (Counties): Increase the calendar year county distribution amount 2.4% for calendar year 2015.

Policy items adopted by the JFC include:

- Cost-Benefit Analysis for Consulting Services: Delete a current law requirement that WisDOT perform a cost-benefit analysis for each engineering service engagement with an estimated cost in excess of \$25,000.
- Transportation Projects Commission (TPC): Delete the Governor's provision requiring the TPC to review existing major highway projects.
- Highway Project Design Inventory: Modify the Governor's recommendation to set the design inventory requirement from 20% to 30%. Current law requires 65%.

Previously, the JFC had approved a motion to reduce the bonding authorization for the freight rail preservation program from \$60 million to \$52 million and to increase the bonding authority for the harbor assistance program by 5.2 million for a Town of Washington Harbor Assistance Grant.



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