

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Public Works Committee
INITIATED BY _____



Benjamin J. Coopman, Jr., P.E.,
Director of Public Works
DRAFTED BY _____

Public Works Committee
SUBMITTED BY _____

December 5, 2012
DATE DRAFTED _____

URGING STATE LEGISLATORS TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS FOR TRANSPORTATION

1 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is a fundamental component of its ability to
2 attract and retain business and produce jobs; and,
3
4 **WHEREAS**, gas tax and vehicle registration fees comprise over 85% of the state's segregated
5 transportation account. Revenues from these two user fees have been declining and are inadequate
6 to meet the existing transportation needs in this state; and,
7
8 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's past practice of transferring money from the segregated transportation
9 fund to the general fund has eroded the public's confidence that the "user fees" they pay through the
10 state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees will be used for their intended purpose; and,
11
12 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's practice of replacing the dollars transferred from the state's segregated
13 transportation fund with General Obligation (GO) bonds put our state in the precarious position of
14 bonding to fund ongoing operations; and,
15
16 **WHEREAS**, the debt service for these bonds are being paid for out of the state's general fund which
17 hinders its ability to fund other programs like Shared Revenue, Youth Aids, Community Aids and
18 courts in the future; and,
19
20 **WHEREAS**, Rock County placed an advisory referendum on the November 2010 ballot asking
21 "Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the
22 segregated transportation fund?"; and,
23
24 **WHEREAS**, the people of Rock County voted overwhelmingly in favor of this constitutional
25 amendment – just over 70% "yes"; and,
26
27 **WHEREAS**, Fifty-three other counties in Wisconsin also asked the same advisory referendum
28 question and the support was similar across the state with an average "yes" vote of 70%; and,
29
30 **WHEREAS**, first consideration of this constitutional amendment passed the Wisconsin State
31 Legislature overwhelmingly last session, on a bipartisan basis; and,
32
33 **WHEREAS**, the 2012-13 session of the Wisconsin State Legislature has the opportunity to pass
34 second consideration of this constitutional amendment and in so doing will give the citizens of the
35 entire state the opportunity to vote for amending the state constitution to ensure transportation
36 revenues are spent for transportation purposes; and,
37
38 **WHEREAS**, providing constitutional protection for transportation user fees will align Wisconsin
39 with our neighbors in Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan.
40
41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
42 assembled this 13 day of December, 2012 strongly urges our state representatives to vote in
43 favor of second consideration of the joint resolution to protect the transportation fund, thereby giving
44 voters across this state the opportunity to vote on a binding referendum to amend the constitution
45 and ensure the transportation user fees they pay will be spent for transportation purposes.
46
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this
48 resolution to the Rock County Legislative Delegation, Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin Counties
49 Association and Wisconsin County Highway Association.

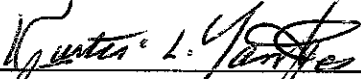
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URGING STATE LEGISLATORS TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS FOR TRANSPORTATION

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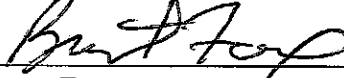
Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE


Kurtis Yankee, Chair


Betty Jo Bussie, Vice Chair


Eva M. Arnold


Brent Fox


Dave Brown

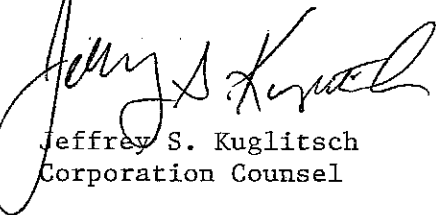
FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution addresses a legislative policy issue and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.


Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.


Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel


ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

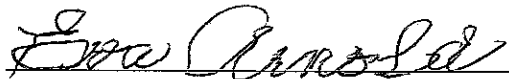
Matter of Policy.


Craig Knutson
County Administrator

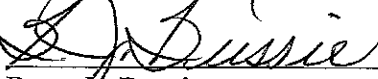
COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

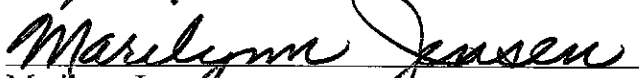

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

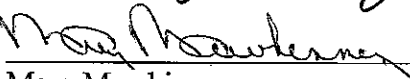

Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

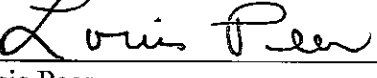

Eva Arnold


Henry Brill


Betty Jo Bussie


Marilynn Jensen


Mary Mawhinney


Louis Peer


Kurtis Yankee

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -
Support for Second Consideration of the
Constitutional Amendment to protect the Transportation fund

WCHA continues to work with TDA to garner support for passage of second consideration of the constitutional amendment to protect the transportation fund. This has been a top priority of both associations and working together 54 counties placed advisory referenda on the 2010 ballot. Another 10 counties passed resolutions of support. As a result of the overwhelming support by the public to the advisory referenda – 70% statewide – the legislature responded positively last session.

First consideration of the constitutional amendment (SJR 23) passed 82-11 in the Assembly and 26-6 in the Senate. If this legislature passes the same resolution under second consideration then a binding referendum question will be placed on a statewide ballot asking voters if they want to amend the constitution to protect the transportation fund. It is up to the legislature as to which general election the question would appear on the ballot. The earliest possible date would be the April 2013 general election. If that would be the desired choice for the legislature they would have to pass the joint resolution out before January 28th. The legislature could pass the joint resolution out any other time during the legislative session after that date and have the question placed on the ballot in either the spring or fall general election in 2014.

The Rock County Board of Supervisors passed a similar resolution of support on September 9, 2010. Passage of this second resolution of support will assure our state legislators of our continued interest and support for this funding guarantee effort.