

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 19 (2012/13)

Re: **Urging State Legislators to Vote in Favor of Using Transportation Dollars for Transportation**

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is a fundamental component of the state's ability to attract and retain business and produce jobs, and

WHEREAS, gas tax and vehicle registration fees comprise over 85% of the state's segregated transportation account. Revenues from these two user fees have been declining and are inadequate to meet the existing transportation needs in this state, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's past practice of transferring money from the segregated transportation fund to the general fund has eroded the public's confidence that the "user fees" they pay through the state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees will be used for their intended purpose, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's practice of replacing the dollars transferred from the state's segregated transportation fund with general obligation (GO) bonds put our state in the precarious position of bonding to fund ongoing operations, an

WHEREAS, the debt service for these bonds is being paid for out of the state's general fund which hinders the State's ability to fund other programs like Shared Revenue, Youth Aids, Community Aids and courts in the future, and

WHEREAS, Sheboygan County placed an advisory referendum on the November 2010 ballot asking "Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?", and

WHEREAS, the people of Sheboygan County voted overwhelmingly in favor of this concept – just over 70% "yes", and

WHEREAS, fifty-three other counties in Wisconsin also asked the same advisory referendum question, and the support was similar across the state with an average "yes" vote of 70%, and

WHEREAS, first consideration of this constitutional amendment passed the Wisconsin State Legislature overwhelmingly last session, on a bipartisan basis, and

WHEREAS, the 2012/13 session of the Wisconsin State Legislature has the opportunity to pass second consideration of this constitutional amendment and in so doing will give the citizens of the entire state the opportunity to vote for amending the state constitution to ensure transportation revenues are spent for transportation purposes, and

WHEREAS, providing constitutional protection for transportation user fees will align Wisconsin with our neighbors in Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sheboygan County Board of Supervisors strongly urges our state representatives to vote in favor of second consideration of the joint resolution to protect the transportation fund, thereby giving voters across this state the

opportunity to vote on a binding referendum to amend the constitution and ensure the transportation user fees they pay will be spent for transportation purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to forward copies of the herein Resolution to the Governor, state and federal legislative representatives having constituencies in Sheboygan County, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and such other public officials as the Clerk may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of December,

Richard C. Bemis
Richard C. Bemis

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Thomas Wegner

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William C. Goehring

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ADOPTED 01.15.2013