

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 24 (2016/17)

Re: **Supporting "Just Fix It" for Statewide Road Maintenance**

WHEREAS, local governments in Wisconsin are 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 now ranks in the bottom third of the country, and

WHEREAS, the failure of state funding for local roads in Wisconsin to keep up with costs over the past several decades has adversely affected local transportation finances, and, according to *Filling Potholes*, municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012, 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, although safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013, and

WHEREAS, although our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin, 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 the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees are combined, and

WHEREAS, the Transportation, Finance, and Policy Commission appointed by the Governor and Legislature found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade, and

WHEREAS, the Sheboygan County Board has made the hard choice to implement a County sales tax to support local transportation, and now it is time for the State of Wisconsin to make similar hard choices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sheboygan County Board of Supervisors urges the Governor and Legislature to "Just Fix It" and to agree upon a sustainable solution – one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund all of Wisconsin's transportation systems including a targeted fund increase for local units of government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Governor, Sheboygan County legislative delegation, the Wisconsin Counties

Association, and such other public officials as the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of September, 2016.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Jacob Van Dixhorn
Jacob Van Dixhorn, Chairperson

Roger Te Stroete
Roger Te Stroete, Vice-Chairperson

James P. Glavan
James P. Glavan, Secretary

Richard C. Bemis
Richard C. Bemis

Al Bosman
Al Bosman

Opposed to Introduction:

ADOPTED 10.18.2016