

**RESOLUTION 2015-26**  
**RESOLUTION CALLING ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO PROPERLY FUND  
TRANSPORTATION IN THE STATE**

**WHEREAS**, local government in Wisconsin is 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 a report commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

**WHEREAS**, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades which has adversely affected local transportation finances. According to the LGI study, municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012. In only two states did local transportation spending increase less than in Wisconsin during 2000-2011; and

**WHEREAS**, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's over-reliance on bonding eats away at the state's segregated funding sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly go pay debt service rather than fund local transportation needs; and

**WHEREAS**, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin. Unfortunately, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Prairie du Chien recognizes that 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 you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and Legislature clearly 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Prairie du Chien urge the Governor and Legislature to agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately fund Wisconsin's transportation system. Furthermore, the County Board of Supervisors/ City Council/Village Board/ Town Board directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that every month that state and local repairs are deferred increases the cost to the taxpayers.

Adopted this 7th day of July, 2015.

By a vote of: \_\_\_\_\_ in favor, \_\_\_\_\_ against, and \_\_\_\_\_ abstain.

---

David Hemmer, Mayor of the City of Prairie du Chien

---

Aaron Kramer, City Administrator of the City of Prairie du Chien