

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Wisconsin is a national leader for manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. We need a safe, robust and reliable transportation infrastructure to support these key sectors of our economy. Unfortunately, we have a significant gap between existing transportation revenue streams and our highway, port and rail needs. The following items will help ensure that Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is well positioned to meet the needs of businesses and consumers.

- ✓ **FUND NECESSARY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**  
Adequately fund mega and major road projects throughout the state to keep their completion schedules on time.
- ✓ **ENHANCE WISCONSIN'S RAIL NETWORK**  
Clarify that Wisconsin's railroad related grant funds can be used as matching dollars for federal grants to fully leverage federal funds for railroad infrastructure development including the establishment of intermodal container facilities and the protection of key freight rail corridors from abandonment.
- ✓ **MAINTAIN ADEQUATE PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES**  
Provide appropriate state and federal funding to keep our airports and ports on the Great Lakes and Mississippi open to commercial activity.
- ✓ **ENSURE EFFICIENT USE OF AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES**  
Transportation revenue must be spent as wisely as possible. Identify areas where costs can be reduced in the construction, delivery or maintenance of state transportation facilities without compromising the safety of the traveling public. Federalize environmental exemptions for highway construction and adopt "practical design" standards.
- ✓ **MAINTAIN LOCAL BRIDGES AND ROADS**  
Ensure there is adequate funding to continue to repair or rebuild economically vital bridges and roads.
- ✓ **ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION REVENUES**  
We cannot support our state transportation needs without the necessary levels of revenue to do so. WMC will support a gas tax increase of up to five cents per gallon and/or a modest passenger vehicle registration fee increase. WMC will oppose industry-specific tax/fee increases, a general toll program or toll pilot programs.
- ✓ **MODERNIZE WISCONSIN HIGHWAY WEIGHT LIMITS FOR TRUCKS**  
Wisconsin has stricter weight limits than many of its Midwestern neighbors. Increasing the maximum weight limit beyond 80,000 pounds will help keep Wisconsin businesses competitive, reduce the number of trucks on Wisconsin roads, and ease the burdens imposed by the national driver shortage and electronic logging regulations.
- ✓ **LEVERAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR**  
Many aspects of transportation development and design can and should be done by private sector consultants and engineers. Reduce costs to state government by utilizing private businesses to do design, project management and construction work instead of government employees.
- ✓ **EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS**  
To foster economic development and e-commerce, as well as expand educational opportunities, Wisconsin should encourage the deployment of broadband services in underserved areas without providing taxpayer subsidized competition against the private sector.

