

Senate confirms Ross as transportation secretary while Dems knock Walker on road funding

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The state Senate [voted 22-11](#) to confirm Dave Ross as Transportation secretary with Dems using the vote to knock the gov's approach to transportation.

Gov. Scott Walker refused to consider a gas tax hike or registration fee increase to fund roads in the 2017-19 budget, and Dems complained that stance means the state's roads will continue to deteriorate.

Ross, state Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Middleton, argued, it just more of the same.

"At some point, we need a secretary and a Republican majority willing to stand up to the governor and say, 'We need more money. We need more money for our roads,'" Erpenbach said.

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All 11 members who opposed the nomination were Dems. Sens. Janet Bewley, D-Ashland, and Mark Miller, D-Monona, joined Republicans in backing the confirmation.