

Joint Finance Committee: Transportation package

Posted on Thursday, Jun 6, 2019

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Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) issued the following statement regarding the Joint Finance Committee Transportation Package. The package includes \$483.7 million in fee increases and a transfer from the General Fund to the Transportation Fund. The proposal also includes \$326 million in new transportation bonding. The proposal didn't include any required cost savings or reforms in the operations of the Department of Transportation.

“Tonight is a big win for the road building specials interests and a big loss for the taxpayers. The Joint Finance Committee package contains excessively high levels of new revenues with no accountability or reform measures. We may see a separate bill containing a few reforms at some point, but it is likely the Governor will veto any stand-alone bill relating to taxpayer accountability at the DOT.

I don't support this transportation package and have serious concerns over the current level of structural deficit (*currently between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau) created by the JFC version of the budget. These key factors are jeopardizing my support for the 2019-21 biennial budget.”

Key pieces in the package:

- Increases the light truck and auto annual registration fee from \$75 to \$85.
- Increases the Titling Fee by \$95 to a cost of \$164.50. Currently it is \$69.50.
- Transfer of \$90 million GPR from the General Fund to the Transportation