



**For Immediate Release**

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## DOT Secretary Confirms Foxconn Raids on Outstate Road Projects

**MADISON** – In an April 19 meeting with the Waunakee Rotary Club, Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Dave Ross appears to have finally confirmed that the \$4.5 billion Foxconn package is causing delays to other highway projects across the state. His statements, as reported by the Waunakee Tribune, appear to be a direct contradiction [a letter](#) written by Secretary Ross' own Department to the Democratic members of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee in February, stating that no state road projects would be delayed by using state highway rehabilitation fund money to pay for local roads on the Foxconn project.

*"Whether it was intentional or not, Secretary Ross' comments confirm what many elected officials and Wisconsin residents have known all along: Governor Walker cannot earmark \$4.5 billion in public benefits for a foreign corporation without it draining resources from the rest of the state,"* said Rep. Hintz. *"State highway rehabilitation funding is a zero sum game, and regardless of the gimmicks Governor Walker is playing to complicate the issue, the rest of the state will ultimately pay the price."*

According to [an article](#) written by about Secretary Ross' visit, he was asked by attendees why local municipalities must deal with local roads in poor condition. According to the Tribune, Ross responded:

***"the answer is that funding is going to large, mega projects in the southeastern part of the state where new industries, such as Foxconn, are headed, he said."***

Governor Walker and his surrogates have repeatedly claimed that any shortage of highway resources will be offset by the early completion of other highway projects. Delays to critical projects across Wisconsin have been a concern raised by Democratic legislators for some time, and also outlined as a likely outcome by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau in a [December memo about the project](#).

The memo showed that the Walker Administration will be raiding \$134 million from the *state* highway rehabilitation fund to pay for *local* roads supporting Foxconn. This raid, which was not previously disclosed or discussed in the 2017-19 state budget process, is in addition to the \$3 billion in incentives Wisconsin is already giving to Foxconn. According to the LFB, it is "unlikely" that the work was accounted for in the state highway

rehabilitation fund when the 2017-19 budget was adopted and “would likely result in the delay of other, previously planned rehabilitation projects on state highways.”

*“Governor Walker may still be willing to mislead the public on the consequences of Foxconn’s \$4.5 billion price tag. However, no one else is buying it, including the secretary of the agency that oversees highway projects across the state. The Governor has failed to address transportation funding for 7 years, and now he is prioritizing Foxconn over desperately needed road repairs all over the state.”*

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