



Amy Loudenbeck

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 31ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Statement on Transportation Budget

Madison – Today, Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton) released the following statement on the Joint Finance Committee action on the transportation portion of the 2019-2021 biennial budget:

“This is the largest increase of new revenues in a generation, paired with the lowest bonding levels in 20 years, this plan will keep more transportation dollars going towards infrastructure projects and not just debt service. We are moving forward on more projects than Governor Evers proposed and I’m confident I-39/90 will remain on schedule and other Rock and Walworth county projects will be advanced.

“Rock and Walworth counties will see new money for transportation infrastructure. The Joint Finance Committee voted to again, increase General Transportation Aids (GTA) by 10%, which is the same amount we did during the last budget. We tripled the funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) and lowered the local match to 90/10 which will allow local municipalities to afford to do more. We also included additional funding for transit and freight rail. Finally, the committee provides a significant investment in the State Highway Rehabilitation Program for reconstruction, reconditioning and resurfacing of highways and bridges in the state highway system.

“As cars have become more fuel efficient and technology has evolved, the gas tax isn’t the best option to depend on for additional revenue. Instead the committee provided \$2.5 million to fund a study on a variety of vehicle miles traveled ideas. User fees are the fairest option as they depend on the miles you drive, not the type of vehicle you drive. I’m looking forward to seeing what the study shows us about the new options technology is creating.”

The Joint Finance Committee is tentatively scheduled for two days next week to finish voting on areas like Building Commission, Natural Resources, Veterans Affairs, and General Fund Taxes. After the budget is passed out of the committee, the legislative service agencies will spend about a week drafting the bill and it will then head to the floor for the Assembly and Senate to vote on. The goal is to pass the budget by July 1st.

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