

Declining Road Conditions, Cost Increases

Written by Wisconsin Assembly Democrats

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LAB audit shows state highways rated in good condition decreased steadily from 53.5% in 2010 to 41% in 2015. The fact that our roads and bridges are crumbling cannot be ignored.

MADISON – Today, the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released its audit of the state highway program, which analyzed trends in state highway conditions, program expenditures, and the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) management of highway projects.



A major finding of the report was the declining condition of Wisconsin's highways. The LAB found that the proportion of state highways rated in good condition decreased steadily from 53.5% in 2010 to 41% in 2015. Additionally, as measured by the international roughness index, Wisconsin's highways ranked considerably lower than six other Midwestern states and the entire nation.



"The fact that our roads and bridges are crumbling cannot be ignored," said Rep. **Katrina Shankland**

(D-Stevens Point). "The data speaks for itself, and Wisconsin families are experiencing it in their daily lives. The governor and Republican lawmakers' failure to develop a sustainable transportation funding solution should be considered an abdication of duty by the majority party. Their lack of leadership and urgency on this critical issue is having profound effects on our state's workers, industry, and the economy."

"It's past due for the legislature to pass a transportation budget that puts our infrastructure on a long-term, sustainable path," continued Rep. **Gordon Hintz** (D-Oshkosh). "Year after year, the Republican majority has paid lip service to our transportation needs while delaying major

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projects and placing millions on the state's credit card through bonding. The state cannot afford to continue down this path of uncertainty and fiscal irresponsibility."