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Local Government Leaders Announce Historic Statewide Event

'Turnout for Transportation' to highlight need for a sustainable transportation solution

MADISON – Leaders of Wisconsin's three local governmental associations announce an unprecedented, statewide event – Turnout for Transportation, **September 29th at 7 p.m.** The event will involve meetings in 71 counties, with a joint meeting for the counties of Ashland and Bayfield. County, city, town and village officials plus members of the business community and the public will have a forum for their voices to be heard regarding critical projects and services in each region and the need for the state to find a sustainable solution to Wisconsin's transportation challenge.

"For the counties, towns, cities and villages all to get together on the same night, on the same topic has never been done before. This is absolutely a first of its kind event," said Jerry Deschane, executive director of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. "This event puts a spotlight on what our members know: Wisconsin's transportation system is a system. It's not just about town and county roads, city streets and interstates. It's about how all aspects of our transportation system work together."

Turnout for Transportation is part of the Transportation Development Association's *Just Fix It* campaign that started last year. The purpose of the campaign is to facilitate a statewide dialogue about the condition of Wisconsin's infrastructure and the impact on Wisconsin residents and businesses.

"If our state is to be successful, our private sector needs to be successful," said Mark O'Connell, executive director of the Wisconsin Counties Association. "One of the primary components of a successful private sector is a high-functioning, well-maintained and safe transportation infrastructure."

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Executive Director Mike Koles of the Wisconsin Towns Association added, “We need to make sure we get the maximum benefit from every taxpayer dollar, and believe me we do. But now, a lack of resources is leading to inefficiencies. If we don’t have the resources to invest in a road maintenance plan that allows the road to last 30-40 years, that is not a wise use of taxpayer funds.”

To date, more than 365 local governments have passed a resolution urging state elected officials to support a sustainable solution to Wisconsin’s transportation challenge.

“It’s up to all of us to work together to meet our transportation challenge,” concluded O’Connell. “We are hopeful Wisconsin will reach a long-term, comprehensive solution.”

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NOTES:

More information about Turnout for Transportation, including the 71 meeting locations, is available at www.TurnoutforTransportation.com.

View a map and listing of local governments that have passed the transportation resolution at <http://www.tdawisconsin.org/1486/locals-urge-governor-legislature-just-fix/>.