



Transportation Funding

GROWMARK Position:

Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure should be modernized to maintain and enhance Wisconsin agriculture's global competitiveness. GROWMARK supports long-term, sustainable funding solutions to meet this objective. We believe:

- Off-road fuel should remain tax-exempt.
- Fuel tax policies should be simple, transparent, and competitive.
- State budget dollars should be allocated to road improvements, particularly in rural areas.

Background:

Wisconsin has the second most transportation-dependent economy in the country. Transportation infrastructure is critical to agriculture in order to bring inputs to the farm and to bring our products to market around the country and the world. In order to maintain competitiveness, Wisconsin must maintain a high quality infrastructure consisting of roads, rail, and water.

Wisconsin's primary revenue sources for transportation infrastructure are the motor fuel tax and vehicle registration fee; the gas tax has not been increased since 2006 and the registration fee since 2008. The Governor's proposed budget for the 2017-19 biennium focuses on preservation and maintenance with no new taxes or fees. While the proposal does provide more funding to local roads and bridges, it does not address the need for a long-term, sustainable funding solution. Under this proposal, 21% of Wisconsin's highway system will be rated in poor condition and that number will double over the next decade. Plus, nearly a quarter of the state's transportation revenue will go towards debt service.

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