

**VILLAGE OF SPENCER**  
**Resolution No. 2015 – 05**

**A Resolution Urging the State Legislature to Adopt a Sustainable Solution to  
State and Local Road Funding**

**WHEREAS**, local governments in Wisconsin are collectively responsible for about 90% of the road miles in this state; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a report commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of Wisconsin's highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

**WHEREAS**, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades which has adversely affected local transportation finances. According to the LGI study, municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012. In only two states did local transportation spending increase less than in Wisconsin during 2000-2011; and

**WHEREAS**, state imposed levy limits prohibit local governments from making up the difference caused by the reduction in state funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's over-reliance on bonding eats away at the state's segregated funding sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly go to pay debt service rather than fund local transportation needs; and

**WHEREAS**, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin, but unfortunately according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin and both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than residents of neighboring states when the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees are combined; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and Legislature, clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Spencer urge the Governor and Legislature to agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately fund Wisconsin's transportation system. Furthermore, the Village Board directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that continuing deferrals of state and local road repairs will only increase the cost to the taxpayers at an exponential rate.

Passed and adopted this 6 day of July, 2015



Village President

Attest:



Village Clerk