



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eau Claire Area Second Stop on Rough Road Tour

Area officials get on bus to experience region's road and bridge woes

(Eau Claire, WI) – The condition of Wisconsin roads has caught the public's attention. Unfortunately, no long-term solution for the state's transportation challenges was reached in the last state budget. Meanwhile, poor roads and deficient bridges continue to frustrate drivers and businesses with increased vehicle repairs and lost time.

The Rough Road Tour continued this morning, Tuesday, June 12, with Eau Claire-area officials taking the media on a bus to experience firsthand the region's aging roads and outdated bridges.

The goal of the Rough Road Tour is to bring attention to the condition of Wisconsin transportation infrastructure, which includes state and local roads and bridges, as well as the impact on local communities.

"Today's event is the second stop on the Rough Road Tour and a continuation of the **Just Fix It** campaign which has sought to educate and engage the public regarding the rough road we face," commented TDA Executive Director Craig Thompson.

"We are better than this," Thompson continued. "Other states are stepping forward to invest in their infrastructure, and so can we."

The Eau Claire Area Rough Road Tour bounced through parts of Eau Claire and Chippewa counties, showing just a sample of the area's road and bridge conditions.

As an example of what local government officials face, the Eau Claire County Highway Department is responsible for maintaining over 420 miles of county highways. In 2013, greater than half (52.6%) of the county road system was in poor or worse condition. The county more than doubled its capital investment beginning in 2014 to improve highway conditions.

However, stagnant state revenue and levy limits leave the county few options to fund needed repairs and improvements. For the last decade capital expenditures have been funded almost exclusively with debt.

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“We currently have the need to replace \$35 million of poor and failed pavement in the county,” said Jon Johnson, Eau Claire County highway commissioner. “However, we can’t afford to continue to borrow as we have.”

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Logo and graphics are available at <http://www.tdawisconsin.org/eauclairearearoughroadtour/>.

About TDA

From the buses in Racine to the Port of Green Bay to the rail lines in Superior to the Waukesha County Airport to the roads we use every day, Wisconsin’s transportation network is the key to connecting goods to market and people to jobs.

Founded in 1971, the Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin promotes the vitality and safety of the state’s transportation system, including public transit systems, public-use and general aviation airports, railroads, commercial ports, and roads. TDA’s members comprise business, labor, units of government, regional planning organizations, as well as individuals.

Contact us at: www.tdawisconsin.org and Twitter handle @TDAWisconsin