



RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD ACTION

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
For: \_\_\_\_\_  
Against: \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Abs/Excd: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote Req: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Action: \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:   
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 0

**RE: INCREASING FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION IN THE 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County is responsible for 281 miles of county highway and 72 bridges and over the last 11 years has completed 62 (5.6 miles per year) miles of highway construction projects; and

**WHEREAS**, state funding has failed to keep up with rising material and labor costs for highway projects, which have increased by 140% since 2018 and close to 250% since 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County roadway work funding the last 11 years totaled \$31,511.120 (2,864,644 per year); and

**WHEREAS**, levy limits make it increasingly difficult for local governments to make up for the shortfall in state funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin's cost sharing funding the county road work is sharply increased for the next three years; and

**WHEREAS**, 44% (124 miles) of La Crosse County highways have a pavement condition rating index of "good," 37% (104 miles) are in "fair" condition," and 19% (53 miles) are in "poor" condition; and

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County's local businesses, farms, emergency responders and communities are dependent on safe county highways; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 budget \$7 million to highway and bridge construction; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing the highway department's budget, from reallocation of unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds or other sources, for highway and bridge construction would allow the Highway Department to complete additional miles of highway construction project; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board recommends the County Administrator to prepare the 2024 Administrator's proposed budget with \$10 million allocated to the Highway Department for highway and bridge construction.

**FISCAL NOTE:** The fiscal impact to add \$3 million of project costs to the Highway Department in 2024 is dependent on the funding source identified. Funding options include: 1.) Borrowing \$3 million of general obligation debt, 2.) Utilizing general fund balance which would reduce the fund balance by 8% to \$14 million unassigned, 3.) Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds if not allocated to other projects, or 4.) Directing the county administrator to reduce other departmental funding which could negatively impact other county services.

Date: 5-10-23

[Signature]  
PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIR

[Signature]  
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended
Co. Admin.	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
Fin. Director	_____	_____	_____
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____

Requested By: Supervisors Jacobson and Viner  
Date Requested: May 1, 2023  
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023