

LWVWI Legislative Committee Report -- Transportation, March 28, 2016

LWV notes the following measures in the proposed transportation budget in AB 64/SB 30:

- Total budget \$6.1 billion (2.4% less than last biennium); there's no additional revenue coming into the transportation fund.
- **Local Roads:** There are substantial funding increases to general transportation aid (increase of about \$40 million, a 9.5% increase). Local roads improvement program seeing increase of \$7 million annually. Local bridge improvement program is seeing an additional \$6 million this year. Totally, \$76 million local aid increase.
- **Highways:** \$3.1 billion is still going to state highways \$669 million to major highway program, which is slightly lower than prior projects. Mega highways see \$3.1 billion decrease over biennium and the majority of this funding is going to Zoo interchange. Increase in state highway rehab program. Discussion over some projects being delayed, but 18, 151, 39/90 to IL border, Verona Road are still on track.
- **Transit:** There is no change in transit funding (\$110 million for each year in biennium).
- **Specialized transportation** budget is getting an increase each year in this budget (\$200,000 to \$400,000 increase each year). This money goes toward counties to fund transportation for people who are aging or with disabilities.
- **Volkswagen Settlement:** \$63 million is coming into the state for "clean transportation improvements." About \$40 million will be provided from Volkswagen during this biennium. \$26 million going to Milwaukee Co Capital Upgrades in transit system; it's unsure if this is replacing the transit funding or in addition to (concern: will this eventually result in a decrease in funding). Unsure where the rest of that is going.

Since in 2013 the governor's own bipartisan Transportation Finance and Policy Commission recommended an increase of \$34.3 million each year over a period of ten years for public transit, **LWVWI recommends the following:**

- 1) Less funding should be used on major highway expansion (unless an urgent and critical need is determined),
- 2) An increase of \$34.3 million should be invested in public transit annually over the next biennium.
- 3) No money from the general fund should be transferred to the segregated transportation fund resulting in cuts to necessary programs such as education and healthcare.