



## Memorandum

To: Wisconsin Legislature

From: Operating Engineers Local #139  
Wisconsin Laborers District Council  
Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters  
Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association

Date: April 25, 2008

Subject: Budget Adjustment Bill and the Transportation Fund

It is our understanding that leadership in both houses are close to reaching a bi-partisan agreement which will solve the state's current general fund budget deficit. This agreement begins to re-establish the principle that transportation revenues should go for transportation purposes by protecting transportation funds for other uses. **We are asking that you please support this bi-partisan effort to protect the transportation fund and pass a budget repair bill as soon as possible to ensure the transportation construction industry will not be decimated.**

As you know, the Administration has indicated it will transfer a significant amount of revenue from the transportation fund if there is not a budget agreement in the next ten days. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, this transfer would result in a significant portion or all of the May and June lettings to be indefinitely postponed. That action would result in the potential loss of \$261 million in projects, which would lead to the loss of 2,000 construction jobs in Wisconsin. These are good, family-supporting jobs with benefits that cannot be outsourced to countries like China. In addition, this action would likely result in the loss of some construction companies that have been owned and operated by generations of Wisconsin families and have given back to their communities and the state.

Attached is a list sorted by month and county of all the projects that may be impacted. In addition, if these projects are postponed, there will be domino effect on future scheduled projects around the state.

The transportation construction industry and its workforce have been facing some significant challenges for the past several years. Our industry has done our part to help solve previous budget shortfalls, but enough is enough. Our roads are in the worst condition in recent memory and our employment levels are already at a crisis point.

We need your commitment to support the budget agreement for transportation negotiated by leadership in both houses. The future of this industry and its employees depends on you.