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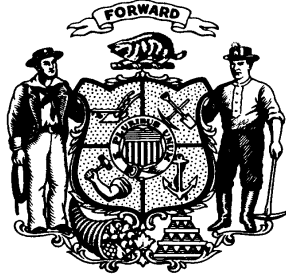
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TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WISCONSIN'S
TRANSPORTATION NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

FROM: Senator Ted Kanavas, Chair

RE: Bill Draft

DATE: January 5, 2005

After hearing a variety of testimony at the last three hearings of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Wisconsin's Transportation Network Infrastructure, it is clear to me that each area we have examined has a number of issues that should be addressed and monitored in the future. Speakers from the aviation, harbor, and rail industries have each raised numerous broad issues that are both important to their particular transportation mode and to Wisconsin's transportation network, in general. To a large extent, the core issue appears to be a lack of a coordinating mechanism between these modes of transport. With this in mind, I propose that the committee should focus on a broad solution that will not only solve the individual infrastructure issues of today, but will continue to monitor and address the infrastructure problems of tomorrow.

In consideration of the diverse needs of those who testified before the committee and the rapidly diminishing amount of time the committee has to complete its charge, I have enclosed a draft bill (LRB-1149/P1) that offers a practical solution to the issues at hand. The committee may wish to alter the details of the bill, but I feel it provides a reasonable starting point for our discussion.

The bill would establish a council in the Department of Transportation (DOT) that has the responsibility to advise and confer with the Secretary of DOT on all matters regarding the coordination and construction of transportation infrastructure in Wisconsin. The committee could operate under the direction of the Governor and will consist of five citizen members, five state officers whose duties are related to infrastructure planning, three representatives of the Assembly and two Senators who are appointed as are members of legislative standing committees. The council will have wide latitude to consult and offer coordinated solutions to

Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure issues. The council will operate using existing DOT staff and will not require or be given any budget appropriation. For more information regarding the bill, please see the Legislative Council staff memorandum enclosed with this memorandum.

I have considered the many potential responses to the committee's work and I believe this bill is the strongest and most likely to succeed. Please review the attached draft and be prepared to discuss it at the January 12 meeting of the committee. Thank you for your hard work to date.

TAK:ksm:rv

Enclosures