



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Representative Joel Kitchens

January 30, 2017

(608) 266-5350

Representative Kitchens Statement on DOT Audit

Madison—State Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) released the following statement regarding the nonpartisan audit of the Department of Transportation’s state highway program:

“The findings of the report are disturbing and must be addressed. The department has chronically underestimated the true costs of projects and not taken into account the increase in costs when project delays occur. We must do a better job of budgeting for our highway projects and then we must live within those budgets.

“While we must continue to find areas to gain efficiencies, the audit showed areas of potential savings to be only \$43.8M, compared to the over \$1B deficit we face in the transportation budget. We must find a sustainable source of funding for our infrastructure and I believe that all options should be on the table, including reforming the inefficiencies highlighted in the DOT audit.

“As we begin the budget discussion, I believe that all projects are important, not just the ones in southeastern Wisconsin. Tourism plays a vital role in northern Wisconsin, and having a strong transportation system is vital to bringing billions of tourism dollars to our communities.

“I look forward to working with my colleagues to find a sustainable solution for our transportation fund”.

###