

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MELISSA SARGENT

48th DISTRICT

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Rep. Sargent: Transportation Audit Shatters GOP Budget Fairytale

Caution! Road Work Ahead (That We Can't Pay For)

(MADISON) - Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) expressed her outrage this morning after the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released their audit of the <u>State Highway Program</u>, the results of which revealed disastrous deficiencies in the transportation fund.

"Republicans can't keep writing checks our state can't cash. Wisconsin taxpayers should be outraged at the results of this audit which show Republicans have been downright irresponsible with their hardearned tax dollars.

"Today's audit paints a stark contrast to Republicans' fantasy tale about the state of our state and the budget crisis facing Wisconsin. I'm not sure which state they're looking at, but our state is ranked in the top 5 of worst roads in the country, and we borrow more and more money each biennium—when are we going to stop kicking the can down the road?

"The fact is that none of this is a surprise to Wisconsin taxpayers--anyone who's taken highway 90 to La Crosse, or 41 to Oshkosh, or commuted from Madison to Milwaukee, could tell you that our streets and highways have been deteriorating under Republicans for the last six years. And now we know just how much—Republicans have doubled projected spending on transportation projects, and yet, less than half of our highways are considered to be in good condition.

"Democrats are focused on supporting and strengthening our communities and building an economy that works for all of us, not kicking the can down the road for future generations. It's time for us to put government back to work for the people of Wisconsin. As the ranking Assembly member of the Joint Audit Committee, I look forward to holding Republicans accountable and increasing transparency for hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers.