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Sen. Tiffany Statement on ex-DOT Sec. Gottlieb

MADISON, Wis. – Wisconsin State Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) issued the following statement in response to ex-Department of Transportation Secretary Mark Gottlieb’s comments:

“An audit by the non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau found Gottlieb’s DOT to lack performance measures to improve operations, incomplete cost estimates, estimates that didn’t take inflation into consideration and overestimation of traffic forecasts by 14%. Mr. Gottlieb had the opportunity to implement reforms at the DOT. He chose to rearrange the deck chairs rather than implement real reform.

“Gov. Walker’s comments about maintaining our transportation system, as opposed to expanding it only when necessary, are part of a consistent message. The new DOT is being more effective with their large budget. For example, in the current budget ‘federal aid swaps’ allow state and local government to deliver projects at a cost of 10-15% less. In June, DOT announced it was implementing a replace-in-kind policy and streamlining DOT oversight on local bridge projects. The changes, along with the addition of \$38.6 million, will fully fund all 183 local bridge requests in the 2018-22 program cycle. These reforms are a small sample of DOT reforms currently being implemented.

“Mr. Mark Gottlieb was status-quo secretary in a reform minded administration. It is not surprising he left disgruntled. ”

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