

RESOLUTION NO. 4-597
SUPPORTING USER FEE INCREASES
FOR STATE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

WHEREAS, Iowa County's, as well as all of Wisconsin's economic well being, depends on a quality, safe and efficient transportation system, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is currently underfunded to the point that the quality of the system cannot be maintained and existing funding levels are totally inadequate to address emerging transportation needs, and

WHEREAS, the inadequacy of existing funding levels has been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Dept. of Transportation, the Transportation Development Assn. of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau, the Transportation Finance Study Committee, the Wisconsin County Highway Association, and the Wisconsin Counties Association, as well as many others, and

WHEREAS, failure to invest in our transportation system will result in a deterioration in the quality of life of our citizens; jeopardize the public safety; create major impediments to the economic growth in the state; and make Wisconsin's businesses and industries less competitive in the state, national, and world markets, and

WHEREAS, failure to address transportation infrastructure investments in the 1997 - 1999 State of Wisconsin biennial budget will result in higher costs and the need for even more sizable user fee increases in subsequent budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors supports the following user fee increases to be devoted to transportation funding: a three (3) cent per gallon increase in the motor fuel tax; a ten dollar increase in motor vehicle registration fees; and the modification of the gas tax indexing formula to eliminate the consumption factor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors asks that these revenues be used to answer pressing needs in our transportation system including: rehabilitation, reconstruction and resurfacing of state highways such as STH in Iowa County; increase funds for local roads and streets, including returning counties to a 30% share of costs in General Transportation Aids and enhancing the County Highway Improvement Program; and enhancing and improving other modes such as mass transit, intercity bus service, rails, harbors, and aviation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Tommy G. Thompson, our State Representatives and Senators, Dept. of Transportation Secretary Charles Thompson and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Respectfully,

Iowa County Board of Supervisors

Richard M. Scullion, County Board Chair