



## Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee

To: Washington County Board of Commissioners  
From: Lars Wahlstrom, Chair  
Date: 07/25/2016  
**Subject: RROMAC Recommendation on Transportation Funding**

In September 2013, RROMAC sent a letter to the Washington County Board of Commissioners expressing the desire to support a Vehicle Registration Fee dedicated to County road maintenance purposes. Since that time, we have experienced bridges which have needed emergency repairs, culverts which have washed out in winter storms and 50-year-old bridges which have had to have weight limits imposed to prevent damage from common modern transport vehicles.

RROMAC is very much in tune with the fiscal challenges faced by the County's road maintenance organization. We have reviewed the data and agree that the gas tax based revenue is not keeping pace with the increasing costs and that deferred maintenance reconstruction will be much more expensive in the long term than preventive maintenance. We recognize and appreciate the County's ongoing efforts to insure available funds are being used efficiently and point to the Pavement Preservation and Maintenance Review as evidence of that commitment.

Washington County has a history of being proactive regarding transportation related needs and the positive results speak for themselves. The County continues to be the economic hub of the state and the condition of our roads plays an important part in that success.

On June 9, 2016, again RROMAC passed a resolution of that support:

*"We recommend that the Board of County Commissioners address the roadway maintenance issues in the County with adequate funding to whatever level is necessary as soon as possible and suggest a Vehicle Registration fee would be a mechanism for that to protect our investment."*

Thank you for your leadership in initiating this essential and bold step to help ensure the future of Washington County remains bright. RROMAC stands ready to lend our support and assistance to this important effort in any way possible.

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