

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER
DALE W. SCHULTZ

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Schultz Statement on Transportation Shortfall

Says Doyle administration not being truthful

MADISON – Senate Majority Leader Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) offered the following statement today regarding a report from the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will end the biennium with a \$68 million dollar shortfall:

“We’ve learned today the Department of Transportation (DOT) will end this legislative Biennium \$68 million in the red. This is appalling, and the Doyle administration should be ashamed.

Just over two months ago, in a story in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Governor Doyle attacked his own Secretary of Transportation when he tried to raise this financial concern. Doyle was quoted as saying, ‘We’re hardly in any crisis...we have a good, strong, robust transportation budget in this state.’

Now we find out Secretary Busalacchi was right all along. I think a lot of us want some honest answers. The appearance is that at best, the governor is trying to put gag orders out on members of his administration when it comes to bad news. At worst, Governor Doyle may just be out right lying about the financial state of our highway system. I hope he can explain himself.

Good roads are the backbone of Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure and a necessity to keeping our economy strong and bringing new businesses to the state. That's why Assembly Speaker John Gard and I created the Road to the Future Committee in order to get some honest answers. It would appear this committee was more needed then we might have thought.

If you look at the numbers from the Fiscal Bureau, if the governor had signed the state budget Republicans introduced, the DOT would be finishing \$90 million in the black.

Instead, Governor Doyle raided the transportation fund and shifted those monies elsewhere. The legislature said we'd meet the governor half way, but through unprecedented use of his veto pen, Governor Doyle ignored our act of good faith and took the whole amount. He completely violated the intent of the duly elected legislature, gave over \$400 million in transportation money to an unelected bureaucrat, and then, with a wink and a nod, said we don't have a problem.

He's like the Wizard of Oz, you know at the end of the movie when the wizard is revealed as a fraud and he won't accept it. 'Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.'

Jim Doyle seems to want to play that role. Pay no attention to the facts. Just follow the yellow brick road. The only problem is there's no money to build it.

The other problem is this isn't a movie. It's real. It's serious, and I expect some accountability."

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