

Just

FIX IT

or Just Ignore it?

The Consequences of Doing Nothing



More than
15,000 school bus drivers transport over 600,000 students
to and from school every day,
traveling 82 million miles each year.

Source: Wisconsin School Bus Association

FACT

Wisconsin's transportation funding challenge affects more than just the condition of the state's roads and overall transportation system.

Referring to Wisconsin's transportation funding shortfall at a conference earlier this year, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance President Todd Berry stated, **"It's not just about transportation anymore. It's rippling through other parts of the state budget. Its tentacles are everywhere and we haven't come up with a solution."**

Video of a very bumpy bus ride in West Salem



Click the image above to view the video.
Or go to <https://youtu.be/UcBGSyGyTQ>.

And education has not been untouched. From delayed projects on UW campuses as transportation debt pushed out other capital projects to additional bus fleet maintenance for school districts, there is no such thing as a free ride.

Here is how deteriorating road conditions are increasing bus maintenance costs for the School District of West Salem, putting a strain on its budget:

- Shattered windows and windows fogging up due to lost seals
- Mirrors falling off
- Shocks busting loose from mountings
- Bent rims and alignment issues
- Damaged tires

Bus drivers need to drive well below the posted speed limits to curb excessive repairs. "You just can't travel safely at any kind of speed on these roads," said Troy Gunderson, superintendent of the School District of West Salem.

"It eats up our budget," Gunderson continued.

"Every time we have to redo the undercarriage of a bus, it's just one less computer, one less book or part of one less teacher we can have for our kids."