

Walker proposes increase in state funding level for county roads to 30%



Gov. Scott Walker
SCOTT PAULUS

By [Nick Williams](#) – Reporter, Milwaukee Business Journal

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On the heels of a study released by a national transportation group stating half of Wisconsin's state-owned roads were in poor or mediocre condition, Wisconsin Gov. [Scott Walker](#) announced Monday he wants to raise the state funding level for county roads to 30 percent.

“Our plan would provide the most state funding for county roads since county general transportation aids were created in 1994,” Walker said in a press release. “Maintaining a safe and reliable transportation system is a top priority, and this additional funding will help maintain our 19,000 miles of county highways.”

Since 2006, funding for general transportation aids, or GTAs, in Wisconsin has decreased 3.8 percent, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's 2018-2019 Transportation Budget Trends report. Between 2011 and 2014, funding for GTAs decreased from \$467 million to \$416 million, but has since increased every year. The budget for 2019 is \$442 million, up from \$428 million budgeted for 2018.

Walker took office in 2011.

According to a recent report from Washington, D.C.-based TRIP, in the Milwaukee area, 72 percent of government-maintained roads are in poor or mediocre condition. Across the state, driving on deteriorated bridges and roads, congestion due to crashes and construction, and lack of safety features in the state's largest urban metros cost Wisconsin drivers \$6.8 billion annually in operating costs, which includes fuel and repairs, [the report notes](#).