

PRESS RELEASE

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Progress In Motion Launches "Fund Our Roads" Ad Campaign

Legislators shouldn't let political gridlock block passage of a transportation funding bill again.

With only weeks to go before the Minnesota Legislature meets for 2016 legislative session, Progress In Motion is launching a statewide ad campaign to educate voters on the need for new road and bridge funding.

"With fifty percent of the state's roads and bridges more than 50 years old, and 1,000 of the state's bridges are structurally insufficient, the time is now for lawmakers to approve a long-term, dedicated source of funding to repair and expand Minnesota's highways," said Margaret Donahoe, Executive Director of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance.

Last year, political gridlock prevented lawmakers from enacting a sweeping transportation bill that would have paid for improvements to major commerce corridors, including sections of I-94 and Highways 14 and 23

"Legislators can't let party politics get in the way of supporting new revenue for something that is so critical to Minnesota's economy and the safety of the state's drivers," Donahoe said.

Billboards highlighting specific road projects will be up throughout the state in February, including:

- Along Highway 14 near Rochester, Owatonna, Mankato, Sleepy Eye, Essig and Courtland.
- Along Highway 23 near Spicer and Clara City
- In the Twin Cities along I-494, I-94 and I-35W

Progress in Motion believes in an "all of the above" approach for road and bridge funding, including a boost in dedicated dollars from transportation user fees, bonding, and one-time surplus money.

Progress In Motion is a coalition of more than 200 organizations advocating for the safety and effectiveness of Minnesota's transportation system. PIM supports increased state funding to improve more roadways, replace more deficient bridges and provide more choices for getting around – all across Minnesota. To learn more, visit Progress in Motion's <u>website</u>