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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Retaining talent, talented students and workers. Additionally, I was disappointed that Republicans chose to reject my middle class tax cut plan, which would have provided $1.2 billion in tax relief. But using my broad veto authority, I'm doing what I can to ensure that tax relief goes to working families who need help affording rising costs, not the wealthiest taxpayers in Wisconsin. Also pleased that this budget provides substantial and well deserved increase in compensation for our correctional officers, youth counselors, psychiatric care technicians, assistant district attorneys and public defenders. It also provides sizable investments in tourism, marketing and advertising, and includes resources necessary to continue our work, fixing our roads and making sure our infrastructure is built for our workforce and economy in the 21st 21st century. Even as I'm glad that the legislature joined me in making critical investments in several key areas, the fact remains that this budget remains imperfect and incomplete. Of urgent concern to me as governor is that while this budget makes some critical investments to help support some portions of our state work state by state workforce, Republicans returned this budget to me without critical components of my comprehensive plan to address workforce challenges that plague our state. So today I'm enacting this budget and giving the legislature a second chance. I'm using my broad constitutional veto authority to ensure ample state resources are readily available for the legislature to complete their work on this budget, to do the right thing, to focus on real solutions for for the urgent challenges facing our state. For starters, the legislature must make substantial investments in it necessary to stabilize our state's child care industry and ensure child care is affordable and accessible so that we can keep parents in our workforce. Failing to do so will be a disaster for our employers, our workforce and our state's economy. And yes, that means the legislature should also expand paid family leave, invest state resources and high speed Internet, and make substantial investments in education at every level, including our higher education Institute institutions. These efforts, along with other key provisions I included in my proposal by end of your budget, are essential for maintaining our economic momentum and retaining and recruiting workers across the state. So while I sign this budget today, I urge members of the legislature to continue the work on this budget throughout the remainder of this legislative session so that we can bolster our state's workforce, maintain our economic momentum, and most importantly, do the right thing for Wisconsin. So thank you very much. And now I'll hand things over to Elmer Moore, Junior executive director of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, to talk more about how this budget and access to affordable, safe, safe, hard housing in communities across the state. Elmer Good.

[00:04:04] **Speaker 2** I'm just going to repeat 525. Million dollars. That was in Sirte for us. Today is a great day in Wisconsin. We are making a historic investment thanks to our incredible governor and a bipartisan collection of legislators making this unprecedented $525 million investment in workforce housing. Insert applause. The Workforce Housing Bill package will empower Rita to make the necessary investments in infrastructure and rehabilitation loans and in supporting the development of affordable housing that will move US steps closer to assuring that everyone in Wisconsin has access to the safe, stable, affordable housing that they deserve. I am going to take this opportunity to thank Governor Evers again for his unwavering support of housing as a core human need, as well as Representative Brooks and Senator Quinn and the many authors of the Workforce housing package for spearheading efforts to have to address our housing needs. This action today affirms our position that affordable housing is truly a bipartisan concern because we are in a housing crisis. All people, all people across our state deserve to have access to affordable housing options because they need it to thrive. We stand ready at Wheaton to implement these new programs that will enable more people in Wisconsin to have an affordable place to call home. Thank you and congratulations to all of us. Now, please welcome Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Secretary Craig Thompson, Agriculture Secretary and Transportation.

[00:06:41] **Speaker 3** Frankly, I think I just got promoted. Thank you, Executive Director. Thank you, Governor Evers. I am really excited to be able to be here with all of you today and recognize the accomplishments and talk about the great work that we're going to be able to do with all with everything that's in this new budget. The 2023 2025 biennial budget builds on all that we have accomplished together over the past four years. Previous administration administrations and legislatures neglected to invest in transportation for decades, and that neglect showed in our deteriorated roads. Many people here in this room today I know, will remember that transportation budget held up the overall budget for years and years. This is our third budget in a row. We're investing new ongoing revenue into our transportation system. The military's commitment to transportation, combined with the investments made over the past two budgets, as well as the bipartisan infrastructure law, have allowed our department to deliver a robust construction program. With improvements being felt by residents throughout the state. Since 2019, we've improved more than 5800 miles of roads and nearly 1600 bridges across Wisconsin. This budget will continue our progress toward improving our infrastructure, whether that's reconstructing the Blodgett Bridge in Superior, a vital connector between Wisconsin, Minnesota Lake needs making needed repairs to the King Memorial Bridge in Broward County, or fixing a number of the miles of highways and bridges in between. This budget will allow our department to continue making real progress in our effort to build a 21st century infrastructure that meets the needs of a 21st century workforce and economy.

[00:08:36] **Unidentified** It's vital that.

[00:08:37] **Speaker 3** All levels of government work together to build Wisconsin's infrastructure for the future. And that's why the revenue increases, in addition to the transportation budget within this budget, are so critically important. They allow us to continue our important work with communities to improve the roads and bridges that we all rely on. Almost 90% of the summer lane miles in Wisconsin are owned and operated by local units of government. And this budget provides significant increase and support to local communities statewide. It increases general transportation aid for local governments by 8% over the biennium. It increases the local road improvement program by 8% over the biennium, which will allow local governments to continue improving seriously deteriorating highways, town roads, city and village streets. There's $45 million for local bridge programing that will ensure Wisconsin's bridges remain safe and reliable, as well as 12 and a half million dollars that will allow us to work with our local partners to be able to assess the agriculture smaller bridges that are so important to our rural communities. There's a $150 million for the brand new agricultural improvement program that will keep the connection between farm fields a market strong and our rural areas vital.

[00:09:56] **Unidentified** It's more than.

[00:09:56] **Speaker 3** An 80% increase in our highway system, maintenance and operations that will allow us to modernize pavement marking which will greatly improve safety and connecting highway aides will increase by 25% under this budget. As I mentioned before, with 90% of the lane miles being taken care of at the local level, all of these state aid to our local.