

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: March 19, 2021

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: I-94 East-West Corridor Project Overview and Presentation --- Informational Report

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is moving forward again with the I-94 East-West Corridor Study, beginning with a reevaluation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The project limit extends from 70th Street to just west of 16th Street on I-94 and from Wisconsin Avenue to just south of the Stadium on Wis 175.

WisDOT's goal is to solve the problems identified in the corridor that need addressing:

- Deteriorated pavement and bridges
- Safety – the average crash rate is two to three times higher than the statewide average
- Congestion

WisDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) began studying/looking at redesigning this freeway in the late 1990s and completed an EIS from 2012 to 2016. The reevaluation of the Final EIS would look to answer three questions:

- Has the environment changed? (rules, new protected species)
- Has the data changed? (traffic, population)
- Has the alternative changed? (footprint, impacts)

Governor Evers has stated that he sees the I-94 East-West Corridor Project as an investment in the community (Governor Tony Evers, July 8, 2020).

RECOMMENDATION

WisDOT Project leadership will present updated information on the project including schedule, preferred alternative elements and mitigation strategies and provide information on dates for upcoming public involvement meetings in March 2021.

This report is for information purposes only, unless otherwise directed.

Approved by:

Julie Esch, Deputy Director

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation