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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisor Mayo, Sr., opposing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation I-94 East-West Corridor Expansion and supporting the “Rehab/Transit Option” proposed by the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, major transportation investments in and around the I-94 East-West Corridor have a direct economic impact on Milwaukee County; and

WHEREAS, transportation connectivity to Milwaukee and other communities in the region to major economic and activity centers, such as Mayfair Mall, the Regional Medical Center, the Milwaukee Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to other points in between is vital to Milwaukee County’s economy; and

WHEREAS, housing and commercial developments in and around Milwaukee County are increasingly transit-oriented and would benefit from a multi-modal system that spurs economic development and enhanced mobility; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has declared an “at-grade” expansion, which would add one lane in each direction to I-94 between 16th and 70th Streets at a cost of \$850 million, as its preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, the justification for this highway expansion is based on questionable predictions of increasing traffic volumes, despite data showing that traffic along the I-94 East-West Corridor declined by 8% from 2002 through 2012; and

WHEREAS, WisDOT failed to adequately study and prematurely dismissed non-expansion options for the Corridor, including transit, and did not consider how such alternatives might more positively affect Milwaukee County communities than costly expansion options; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County residents, in their role as Wisconsin and Federal taxpayers, will be asked to pay their share of this \$850 million highway expansion project; and

WHEREAS, wasteful and unneeded highway expansions such as this one divert hundreds of millions of dollars away from local road maintenance and from local public transit systems, including the amount of state assistance available to Milwaukee County to help meet local transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, WisDOT’s preferred expansion will increase air and waterway pollution in and around Milwaukee County; and

47 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County and the region need transportation solutions
48 including transit improvements that enhance mobility, safety, workforce connectivity,
49 and the quality of life for all residents, but such solutions have not been offered or
50 planned by WisDOT; and

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52 WHEREAS, WisDOT's preferred expansion option will reduce highway access to
53 key businesses and engines of economic development in the region, while not adding a
54 lane would maintain full local access; and

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56 WHEREAS, the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation (Coalition) has
57 developed a better, more cost-effective alternative for the I-94 East-West Corridor that
58 would directly benefit Milwaukee County by connecting communities and residents to
59 the region's major economic centers, and to other economic and activity centers; and

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61 WHEREAS, the Coalition's plan calls for:

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- 63 1. Repair of the highway with spot improvements, without adding lanes
- 64 2. Incorporation of an East-West transit system into the I-94 project plan

65 ;and

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67 WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its
68 meeting of June 10, 2015, recommended adoption of the resolution (vote 5-2); now,
69 therefore,

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71 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County opposes the Wisconsin Department of
72 Transportation's expansion proposal of the I-94 East-West Corridor, and supports the
73 "Rehab/Transit Option" put forth by the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation.

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