

Date: 21 October, 2013

From: Supervisor Jason Haas

To: Supervisor Pat Jursik

Re: The possible sale of County land along Milwaukee's Green Corridor on S. 6th Street

Milwaukee County owns 5.5 acres of land on the east side of S. 6th Street in the city of Milwaukee. The land is bound by Wilson Creek on the south, W. Bolivar Avenue on the north, and private and city property on the east. This land was site of the North Shore Line railroad corridor until its closure in 1963.

I am considering turning this land into a candidate for development either by RFP or direct sale. My vision is for the creation of a "green" development, using proven green development techniques, including geothermal heating, rainwater runoff containment, solar power, and permeable paving.

This development would be consistent with the goals of "The Green Corridor" legislation passed by the Milwaukee Common Council in July 2011. The Green Corridor legislation designated the three-mile stretch of S. 6th St. from W. Howard Ave. south to W. College Ave (which includes the area in question) as a showcase for innovative green technology and sustainable public works.

Under the Green Corridor legislation, a group called the Green Corridor Committee has been formed. The Green Corridor Committee is a coalition of businesses and local government offices that have been actively working to improve the area.

In 2010, Milwaukee County made land on either side of Howard Avenue available for use in the Green Corridor under the direction of Supervisor Chris Larson. Streetscaping improvements by the city made in parallel with landscaping improvements at local businesses have beautified the neighborhood and prevented tens of thousands of gallons of rainwater from entering the storm sewers. Capturing rainwater in the ground lessens the amount of runoff that enters the storm sewers. This helps to prevent flooding and diminishes the burden on the sewers and water treatment system.

Green Committee Chairman Bryan Simon has led the redevelopment of the county land on S. 6th Street from Howard to Bolivar. His capacity to implement the broad vision of The Green Corridor has been critical to its ongoing success.

Developing the land as I am proposing will continue the work of the Green Corridor Committee to extend from Bolivar to Wilson Creek.