

January 23, 2024



LAKE INTERCHANGE STUDY

*MILWAUKEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION
AND TRANSIT COMMITTEE*

EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES TOGETHER

www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsindot.gov



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Study Overview
- Public Engagement Summary
- Concept Review
- Next Steps

STUDY OVERVIEW

The Lake Interchange Study is evaluating alternatives to reconstruct the I-794 freeway corridor, generally from the Milwaukee River and Hoan Bridge.

STUDY ACTIVITIES

- Public involvement and outreach
- Alternatives analysis
- Environmental documentation (NEPA)
- Preliminary design



DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to address deteriorating infrastructure in a manner that improves safety and operations on I-794, generally from the Milwaukee River to the Hoan Bridge, while also striving to enhance community connectivity and compatibility with local plans and development

PROJECT NEEDS

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE
originally built in 1974-1975



**COMMUNITY
CONNECTIVITY**

**SYSTEM
LINKAGES**

**ROADWAY
DEFICIENCIES**

**BICYCLE and
PEDESTRIAN
SAFETY**

**TRAFFIC
SAFETY**





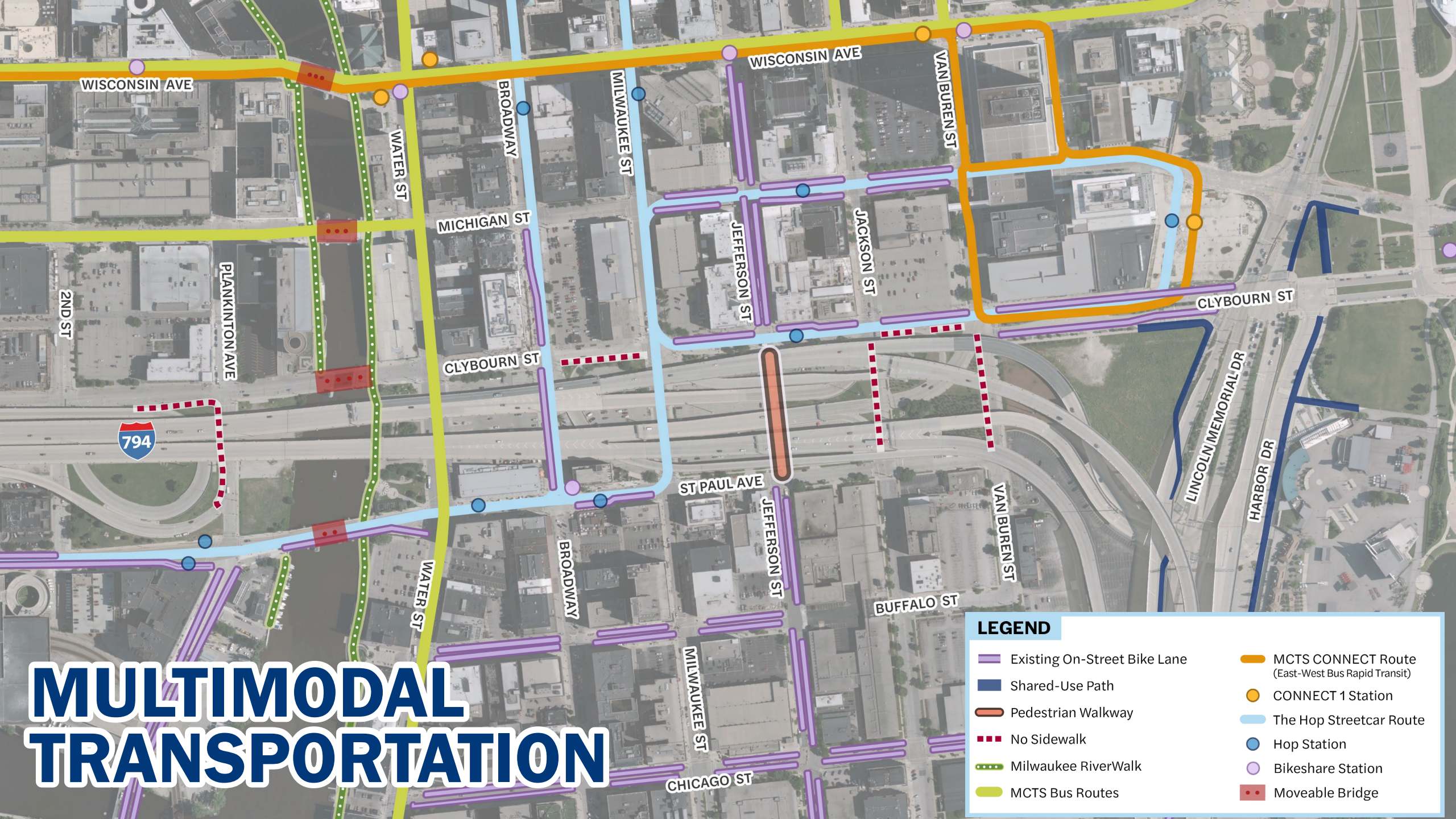
LEGEND

 Not Reconstructed

www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION

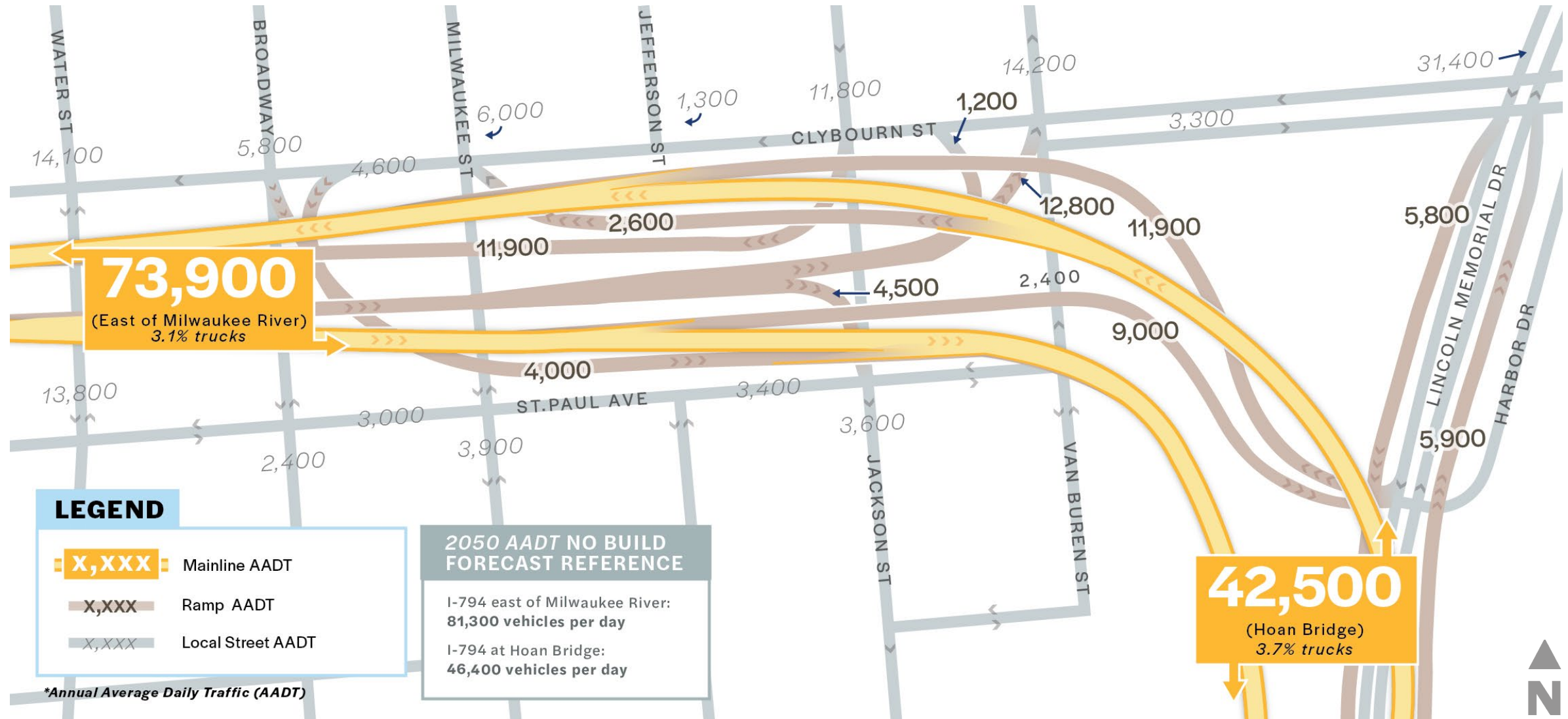


LEGEND

- Existing On-Street Bike Lane
- Shared-Use Path
- Pedestrian Walkway
- No Sidewalk
- Milwaukee RiverWalk
- MCTS Bus Routes
- MCTS CONNECT Route (East-West Bus Rapid Transit)
- CONNECT 1 Station
- The Hop Streetcar Route
- Hop Station
- Bikeshare Station
- Moveable Bridge

ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC 2022

Estimated daily through traffic on I-794 at the Lake Interchange is 26,600 vehicles



ORIGIN TO DESTINATION PATTERNS

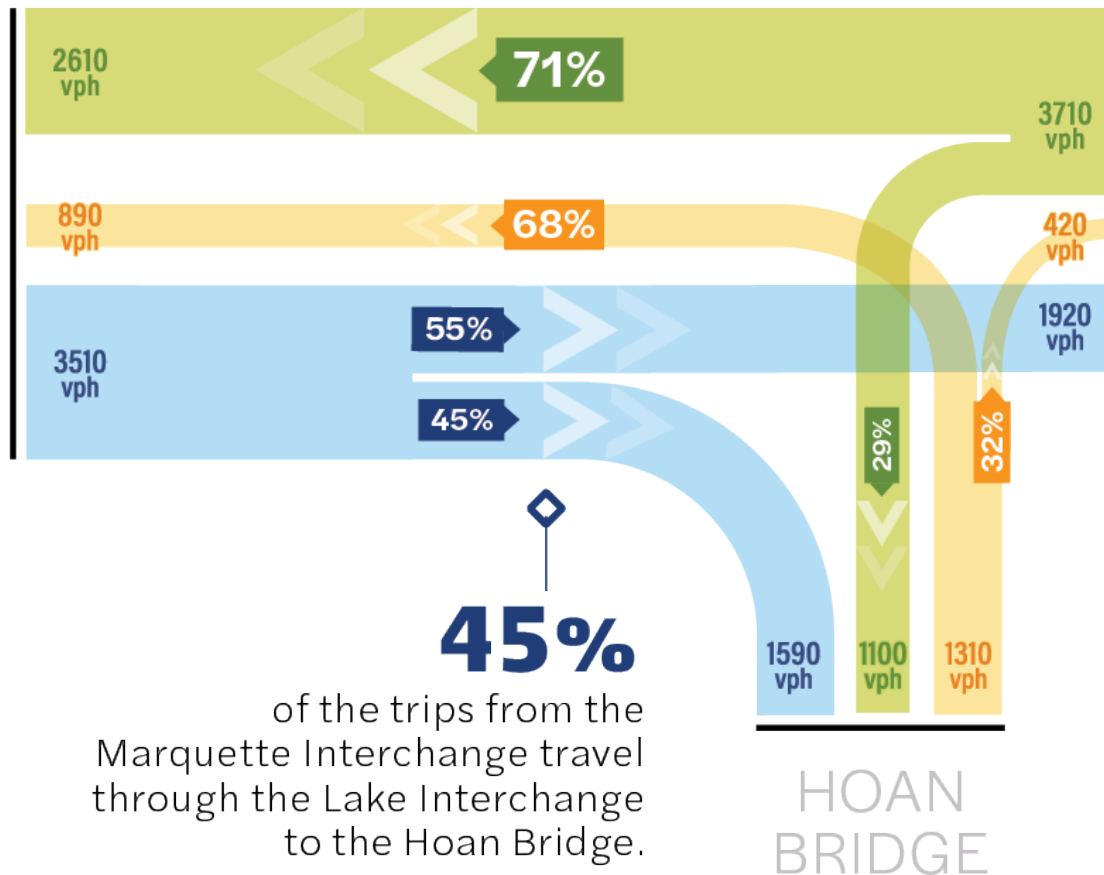
Existing (2022) Freeway Trip Pattern – PM Peak Period

PM PEAK PERIOD 3-6 P.M.

I-43/I-94 VIA
MARQUETTE
INTERCHANGE

68%

of the trips from the Hoan Bridge travel through the Lake Interchange to the Marquette Interchange.



71%

of the trips that begin at the Lake Interchange travel to the Marquette Interchange.

LAKE INTERCHANGE

55%

of the trips from the Marquette Interchange travel to the Lake Interchange.

HOW TO READ THESE GRAPHS:

- Outbound trips from Lake Interchange
- Inbound trips from Hoan Bridge
- Inbound trips from Marquette Interchange
- VPH Average Weekday Vehicles Per Hour in 2022

STUDY PHASES

START
2022

WE ARE HERE

COMPLETION

STUDY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Evaluate existing conditions and prepare purpose and need.

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Evaluate design concepts.

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

Advance alternatives analysis based on purpose and need, and consider costs, impacts, constructability, and other factors.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Complete an environmental document that identifies a preferred alternative as part of NEPA process.

STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT



DEVELOP
DESIGN CONCEPTS

PUBLIC
MEETING #1



IDENTIFY BUILD
ALTERNATIVES

PUBLIC MEETING
#2 AND #3



IDENTIFY RECOMMENDED
ALTERNATIVE

PUBLIC
HEARING



SELECT PREFERRED
ALTERNATIVE

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

LISTEN FIRST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

HOW WE'VE CONNECTED

2,900+
PUBLIC COMMENTS
SUBMITTED
(AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023)

**ELECTED
OFFICIAL
BRIEFINGS
and LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COORDINATION
MEETINGS**



**ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS**
(STAKEHOLDERS
AND BUSINESSES)

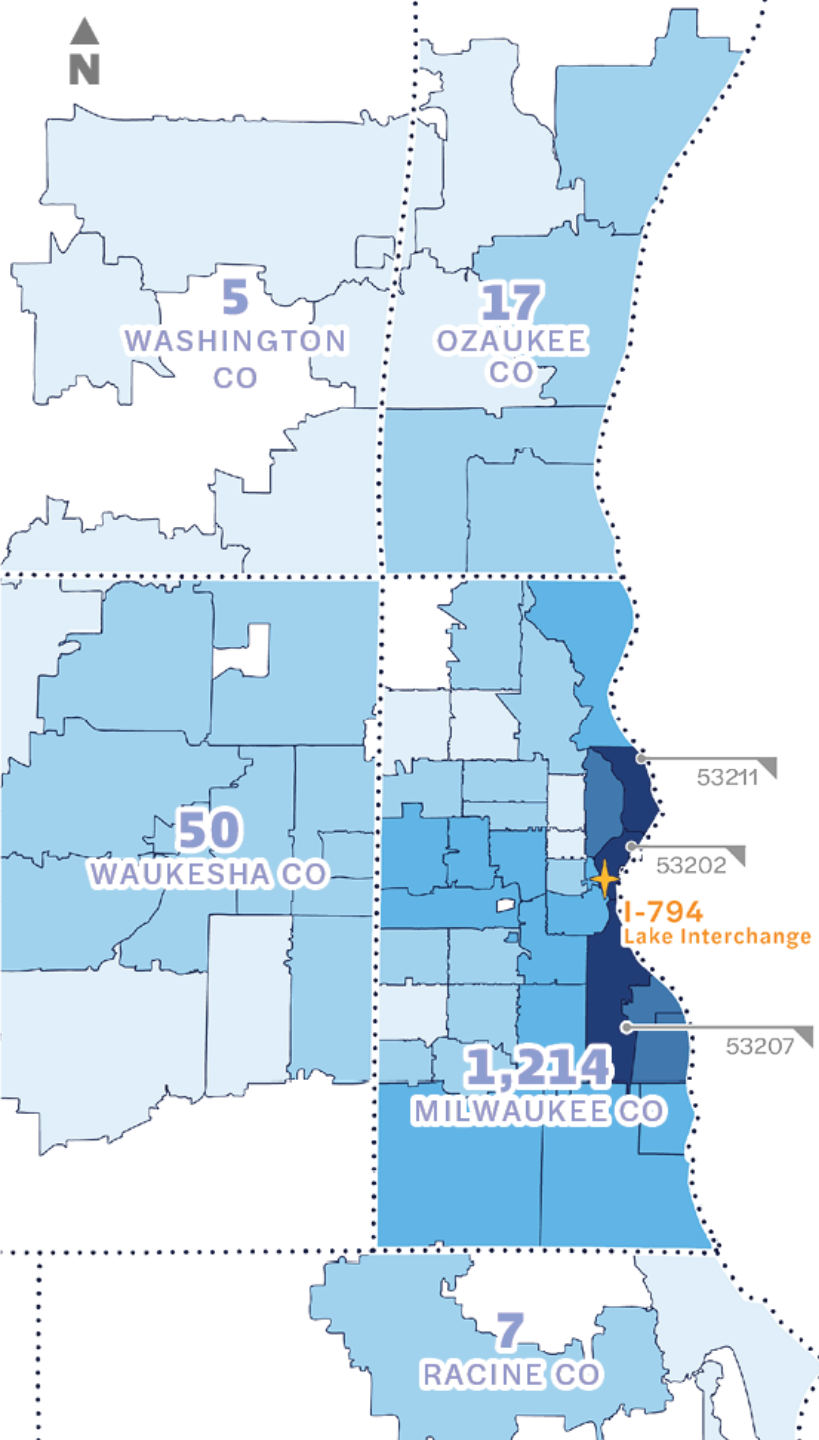


40+
**STAKEHOLDER
MEETINGS**



2
**PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT
MEETINGS**





WHO WE HEARD FROM

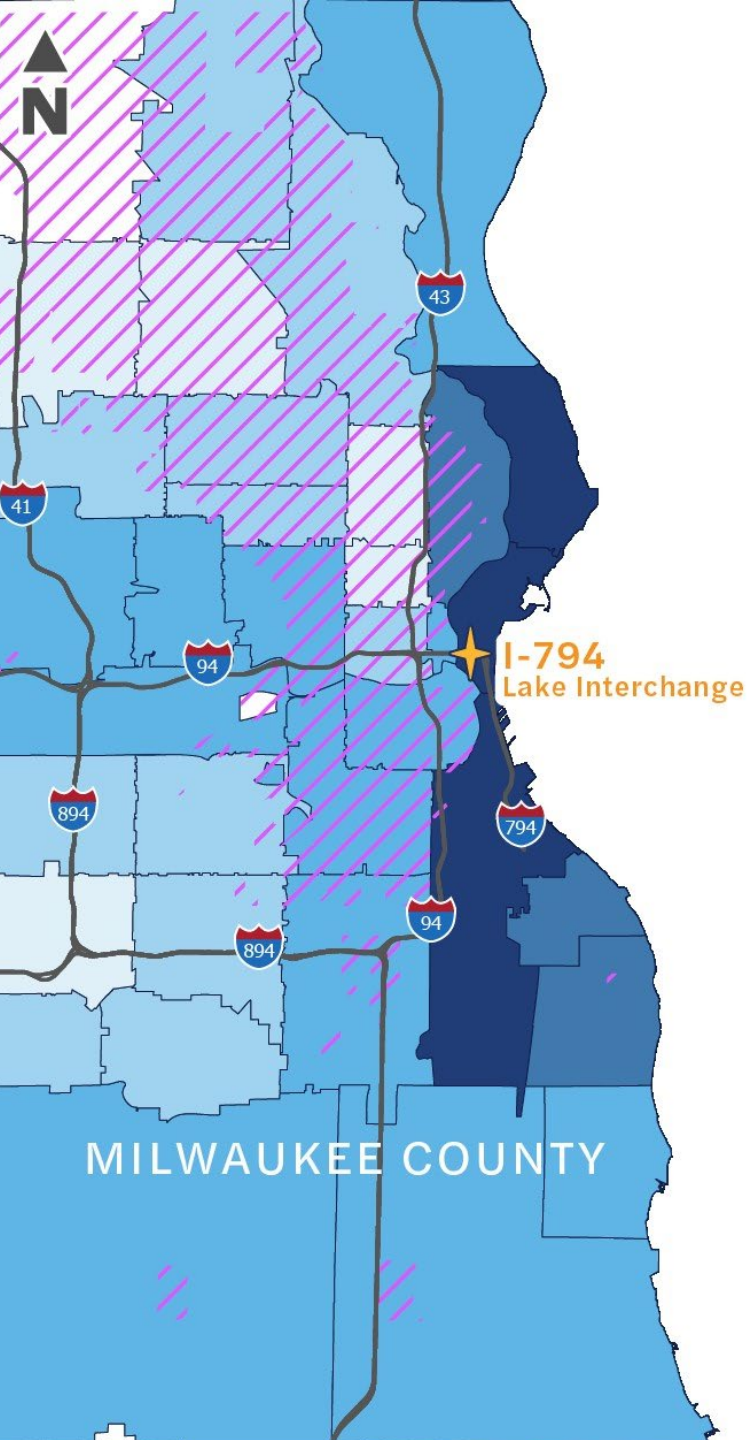
AUGUST PIM COMMENT FORM

1,781 total responses:

- **1,214** within Milwaukee County
 - More than half came from ZIP Codes: 53207, 53202 and 53211
- **137** beyond Milwaukee County
- **430** without a ZIP Code

COMMENT FORM RESPONSES BY ZIP CODE





PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Solicit meaningful feedback from diverse populations by:

- Engaging with Community Based Organizations
- Advisory Committee membership
- Focusing on neighborhood and community outreach
- Expanding communication tools, including multi-lingual and ADA services

COMMENT FORM RESPONSES BY ZIP CODE

Fewest
Responses
by ZIP Code



Most
Responses
by ZIP Code

 High Minority Population

**Census Block Groups with minority population percentage higher than Milwaukee County*

CONCEPT REVIEW

CONCEPT GROUPS

Based on early engagement feedback, WisDOT developed initial design concepts for the I-794 Lake Interchange that fall into four groups:

NO BUILD

Bridges and ramps would not be replaced
AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE

REPLACE IN KIND

RECONSTRUCT EXISTING STRUCTURE and match existing alignment to the extent possible

Maintain all **EXISTING ACCESS POINTS**

LIMITED LOCAL STREET and sidewalk improvements

FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT

RECONSTRUCT elevated freeway **WITHOUT CAPACITY EXPANSION**

IMPROVE DESIGN FEATURES to meet current standards and improve safety

CONSOLIDATE FREEWAY ACCESS RAMPS

IMPROVE LOCAL STREET CONNECTIVITY where feasible

Provide **COMPLETE STREET ACCOMMODATIONS** where feasible

FREEWAY REMOVAL

Remove the freeway and **UTILIZE THE AT-GRADE STREET NETWORK**



Vel R. Phillips Ave.

2nd St.

Plankinton Ave.

Water St.

Michigan St.

DOWNTOWN

Van Buren St.

Cass St.

Lincoln Memorial Dr.

THE COUTURE

Maintain existing design at Clybourn Street and Lincoln Memorial Drive intersection

Maintain one-way on Clybourn Street

Clybourn St.



FUTURE DOG EXERCISE AREA

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MARKET

333 N. WATER ST. TOWER

St. Paul Ave.

Plankinton Ave.

MILWAUKEE RIVER

Water St.

Buffalo St.

Broadway

Milwaukee St.

Jefferson St.

Jackson St.

Eastbound freeway design speed: 35 mph

Westbound freeway design speed: 45 mph

Harbor Dr.

SUMMERFEST NORTH GATE

SUMMERFEST MID GATE

ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER




Chicago St.

Menomonee St.

Corcoran St.



LEGEND

-  Elevated Structure
-  Potential Surface Street Extension
-  Planned City Street Extension
-  Pedestrian Walkway

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE

 Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 2.7

REPLACE IN KIND CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023

www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov





LEGEND

- Elevated Structure
- Surface Streets
- Potential Surface Street Extension
- Planned City Street Extension
- Pedestrian Walkway

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE

- Land Available Not Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 1.1
- Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 4.4
- Land Inside Lakebed Boundary
TOTAL ACRES: 2.8

FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023

www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov





LEGEND

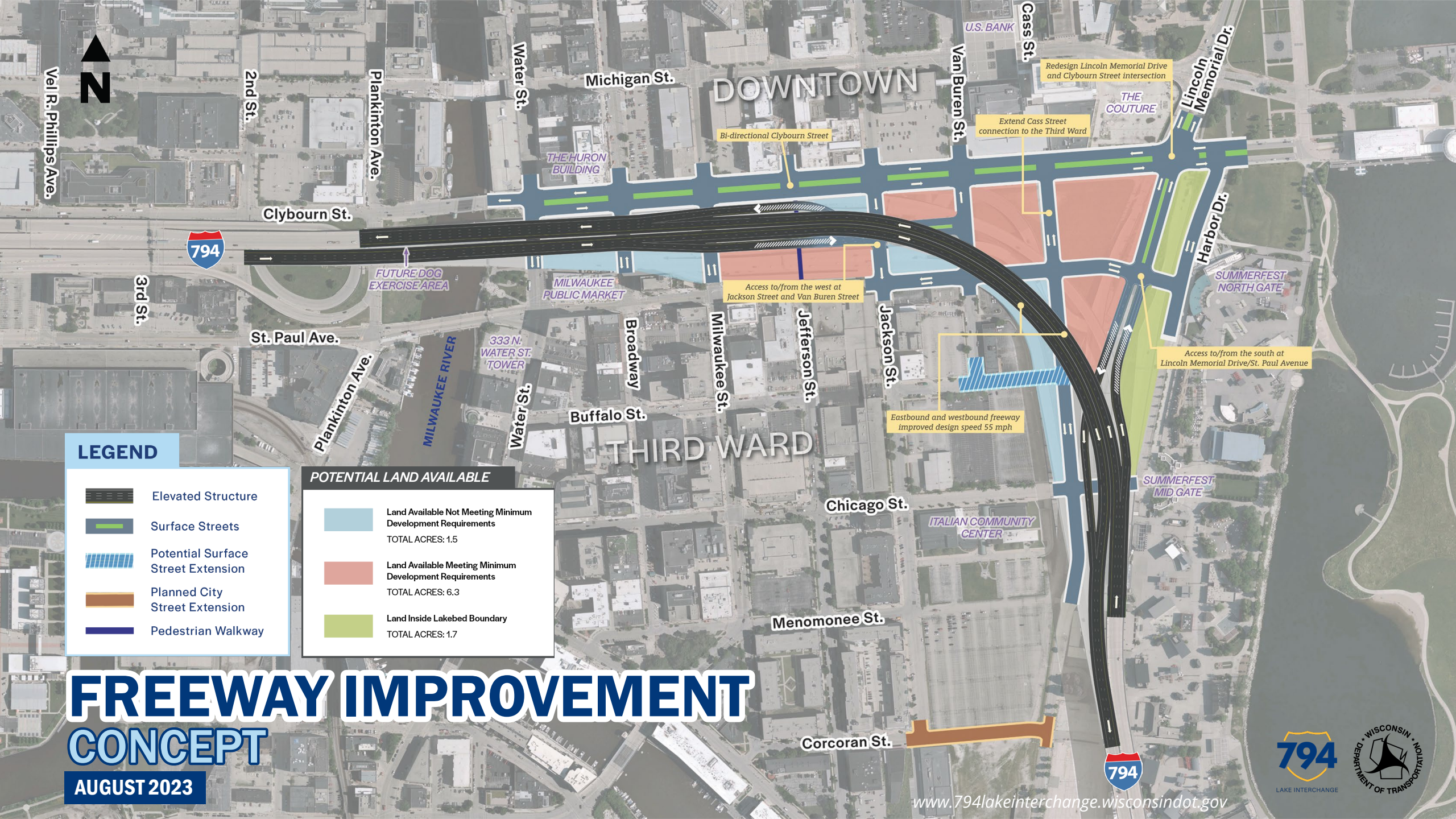
- Elevated Structure
- Surface Streets
- Potential Surface Street Extension
- Planned City Street Extension
- Pedestrian Walkway

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE

- Land Available Not Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 1.5
- Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 6.3
- Land Inside Lakebed Boundary
TOTAL ACRES: 1.7

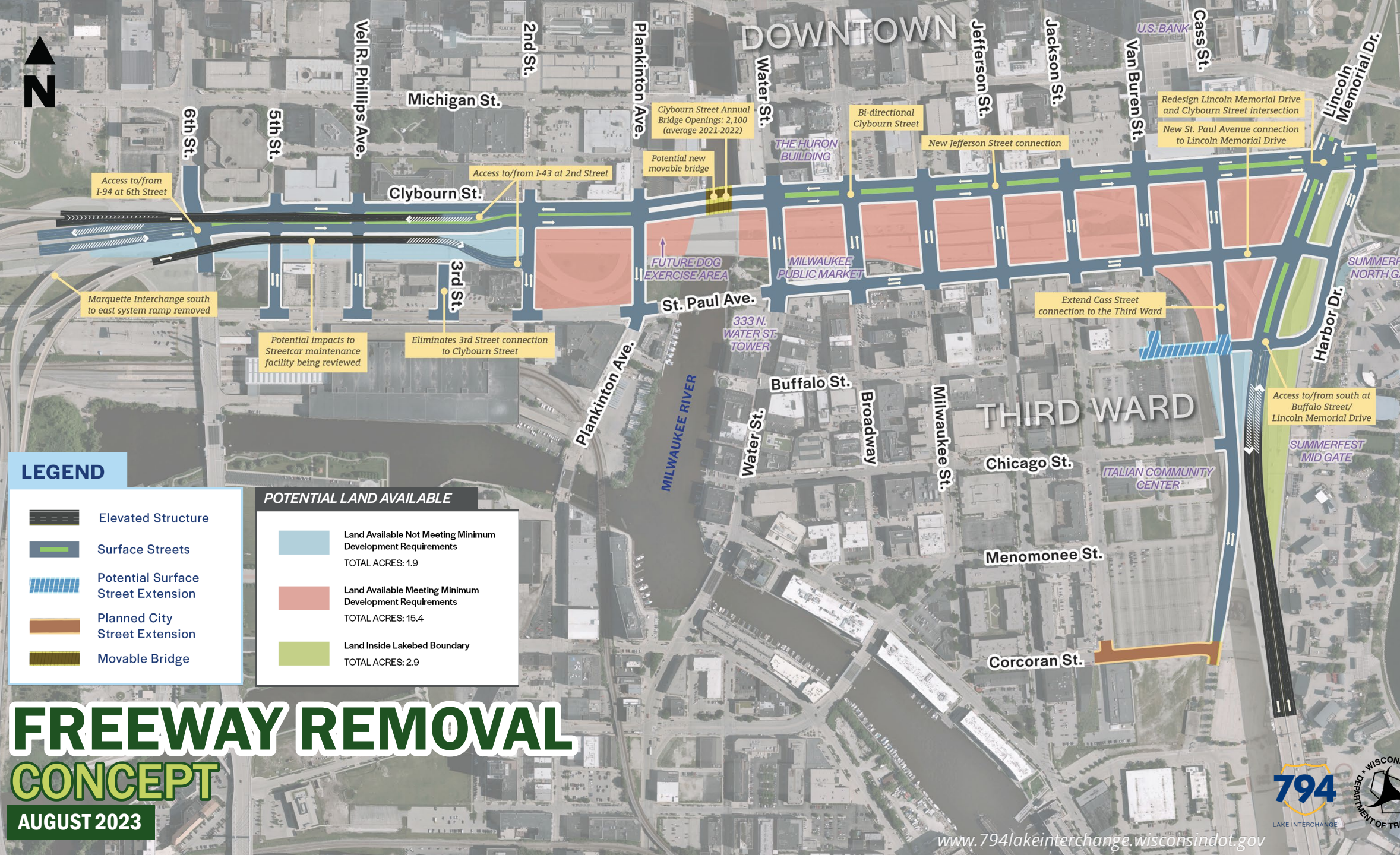
FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023



www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov





LEGEND

- Elevated Structure
- Surface Streets
- Potential Surface Street Extension
- Planned City Street Extension
- Movable Bridge

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE

- Land Available Not Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 1.9
- Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 15.4
- Land Inside Lakebed Boundary
TOTAL ACRES: 2.9

FREEWAY REMOVAL CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023

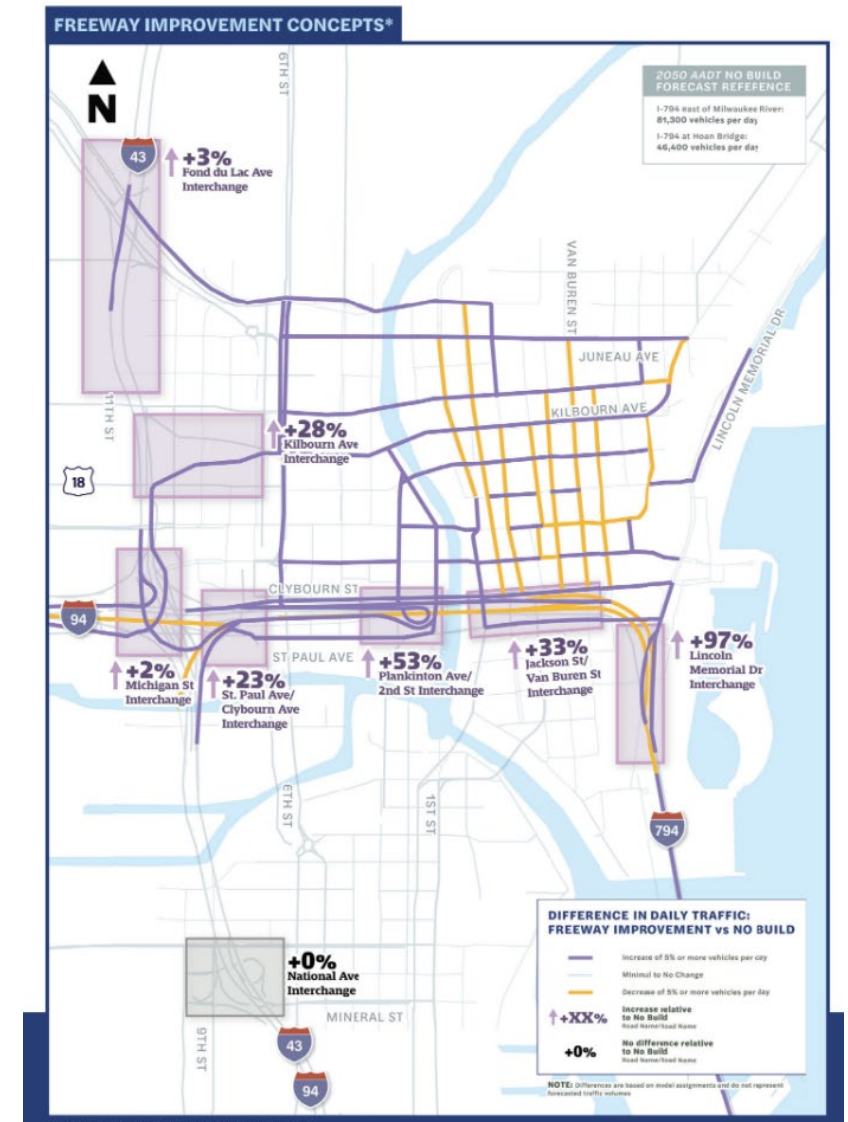
WHERE WILL TRAFFIC GO?

TRAFFIC DIVERSION

Freeway Improvement Concepts:

- Localized to the downtown area due to access consolidation

*Data represents approximation of diversion under all Freeway Improvement Concepts.
Differences are based on model assignments and do not represent forecasted traffic volumes.*

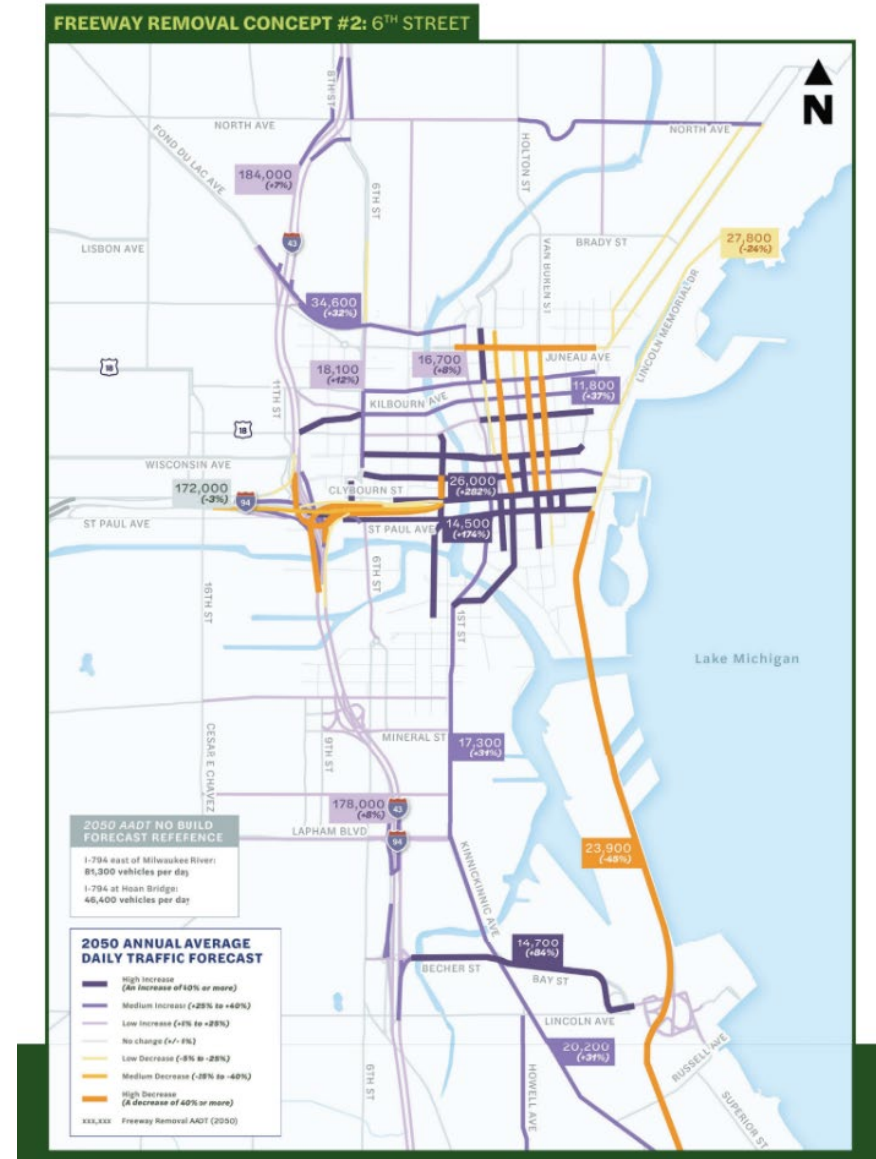


WHERE WILL TRAFFIC GO?

TRAFFIC DIVERSION

Freeway Removal Concepts:

- Anticipated traffic diversion area extends north to Capitol Drive and south to College Avenue
- Anticipated changes in traffic patterns throughout the downtown grid network



NEXT STEPS

- Identify concepts to advance as alternatives
- Advance analysis of alternatives and refine design
 - Includes traffic models and multimodal analysis
- Conduct ongoing stakeholder and local government coordination
- Hold second Public Involvement Meeting (mid-2024)

QUESTIONS