



Division of Transportation
System Development
Northeast Regional Office
944 Vanderperren Way
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Scott Walker, Governor
Mark Gottlieb, P.E., Secretary
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Date: April 3, 2013

Mr. Daniel Murphy
Milwaukee County Dept. of Transportation & Public Works
Project Engineer - Traffic
2711 West Wells Street, Suite 300
Milwaukee WI 53208

Re: USH 41 Interstate Conversion Study - WIS 175 Route Designation

ID 1133-00-00

IH 94 – IH 43

Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Winnebago, Outagamie, and Brown Counties

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) requests that the subject of extending WIS 175 along the current USH 41 route along Lisbon Avenue and Appleton Avenue be placed on the next Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee meeting agenda. See the attached map of the proposed route changes.

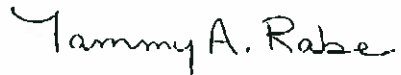
As part of the US 41 Interstate conversion, AASHTO has conditionally approved the relocation of US 41 to follow I-894 and US 45 in order to have US 41 be concurrent with the proposed I-41 route. In accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 84.02(3), "it is necessary to have approval by the county board of each county in which part of the proposed change is situated when the change is more than 2.5 miles of the system." Therefore, WisDOT is requesting to have Milwaukee County board approval to re-designate to WIS 175 the existing section of US 41 beginning at the Miller Park interchange on I-94 and following Lisbon Avenue and Appleton Avenue north to the WIS 175/US 45 interchange. WisDOT commits to the following as part of the WIS 175 designation:

- The re-designated segment of US 41 will remain a connecting highway
- The re-designation will not affect state funding for the route
- The re-designation will not have costs for Milwaukee County

WisDOT will include the removal of US 41 signs and the installation of WIS 175 signs in the Interstate Conversion signing project. Currently, we are planning for installation of Interstate shields in 2014; however, before this can take place an environmental document needs to be signed, federal OSOW grandfathering legislation must be passed, and a formal agreement must be signed with FHWA.

Please let me know if WisDOT representation will be needed at the Committee or County Board meetings or if you need any additional information for use at these meetings. You can contact me at 920-492-5661 or by e-mail at tammy.rabe@dot.wi.gov.

Sincerely,

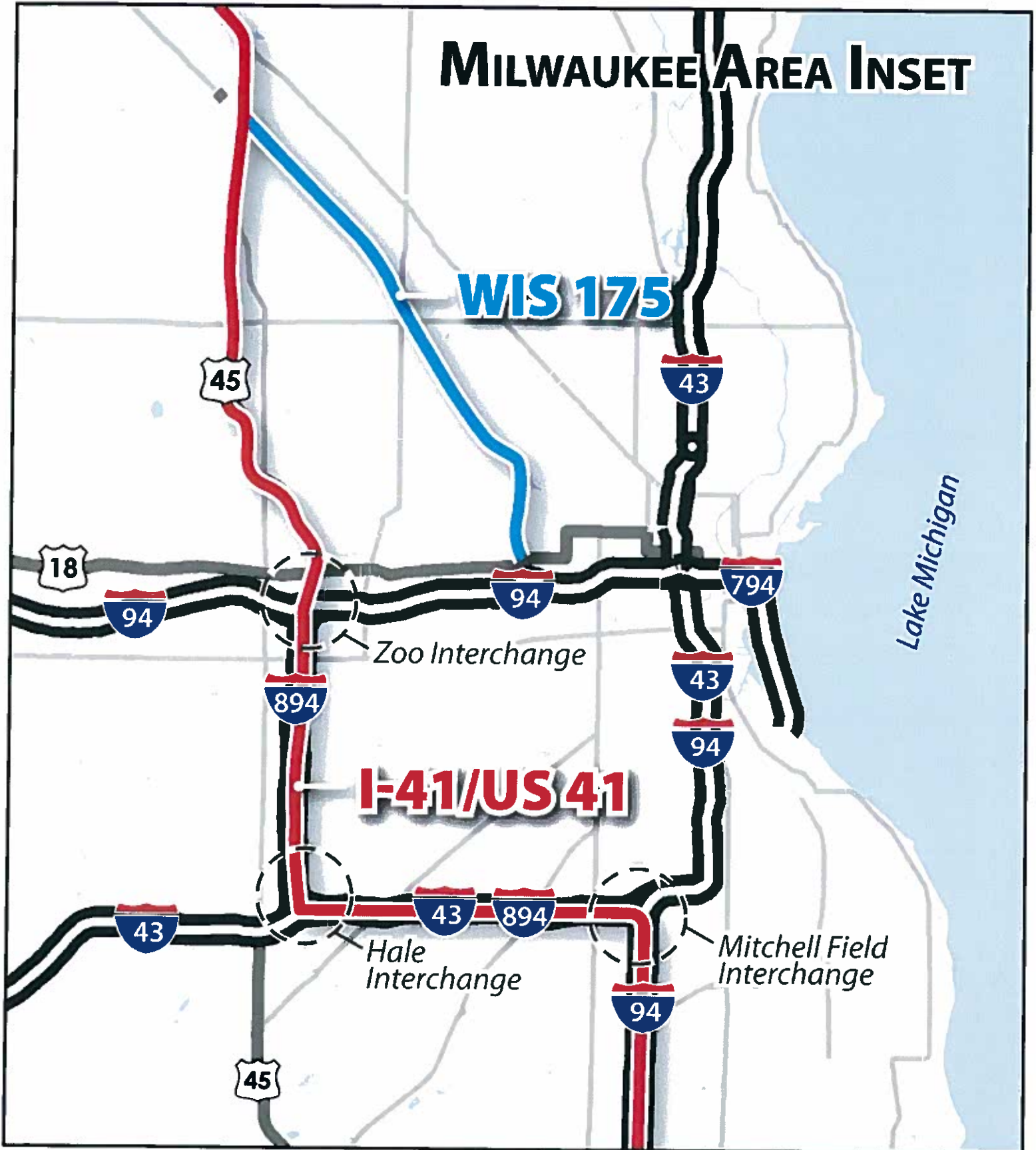
Handwritten signature of Tammy A. Rabe in black ink.

Tammy Rabe, PE
WisDOT Planning Project Manager

Enclosures: I41 Corridor Map
US 41 Renaming Tech Memo

cc: Brian Andreas, Strand Associates, Consultant Project Manager

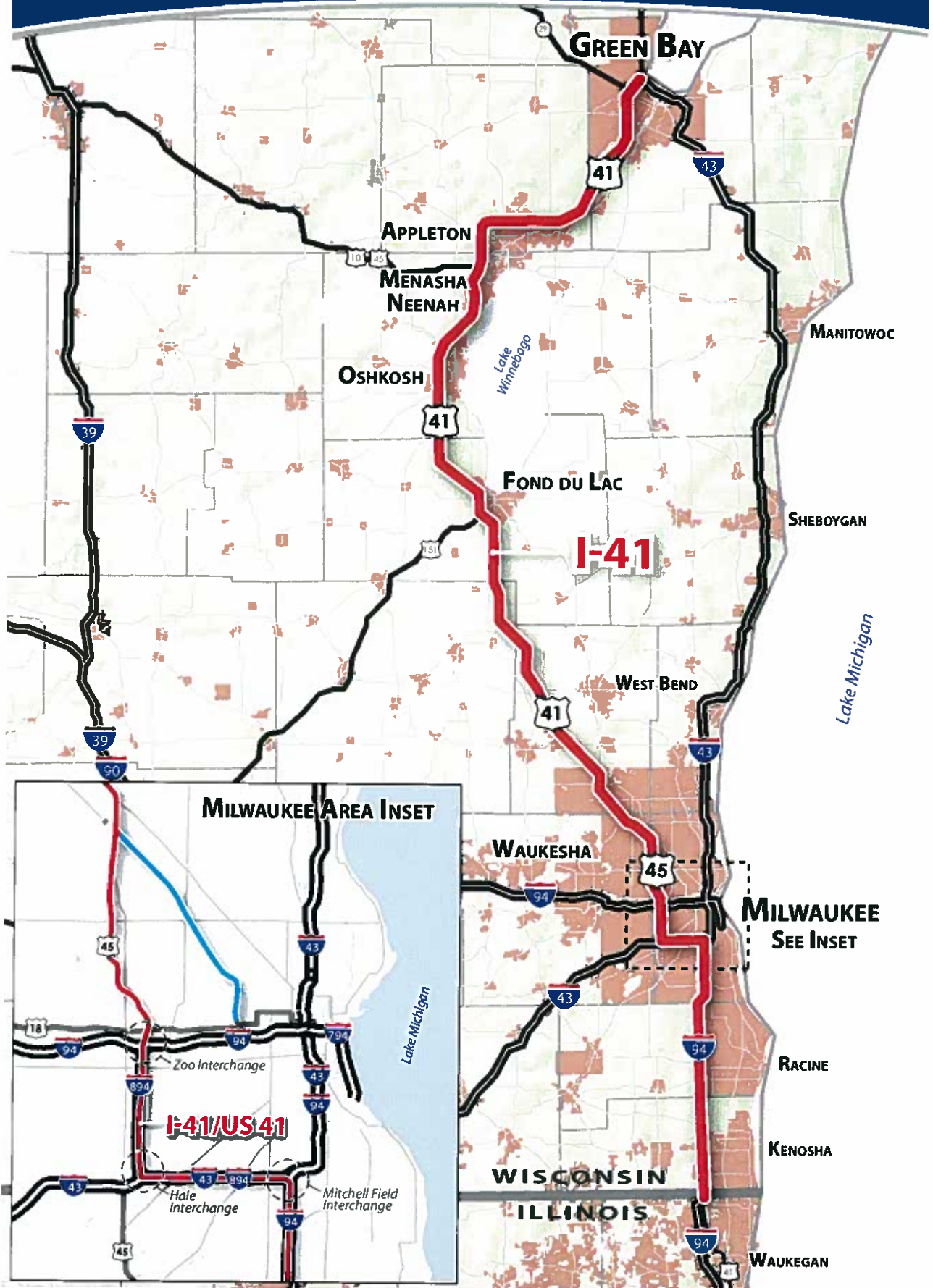
MILWAUKEE AREA INSET



I-41 Corridor

Interstate

US 41 Conversion





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December 12, 2012 Renaming US 41 to WIS 175 in the City of Milwaukee

On November 16, 2012, AASHTO conditionally approved the designation of the US 41 Interstate corridor as IH-41 and the re-routing of US 41 around Milwaukee contingent on approvals from FHWA.

The current section of US 41 beginning at the Miller Park interchange on I-94 and following Lisbon Avenue and Appleton Avenue north to the WIS 175/US 45 interchange is recommended to be designated WIS 175 to maintain its current status as a connecting highway.

Three options for a new state highway number were considered including WIS 241, WIS 175, and WIS 341. (See the attached map.) After reviewing the existing conditions and discussions with the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County, it was determined the WIS 241 option is not feasible for the following reasons:

- Extension of WIS 241 north along South 27th Street would impact historical resources located north of Lincoln Avenue.
- Extension of WIS 241 either north along South 27th Street or west along West Lincoln Avenue would involve existing roadways that do not meet WisDOT standards.
- Connecting highway limits would need to be extended.
- Additional truck traffic may be directed through residential neighborhoods.

The Interstate conversion study team recommends WIS 175 be designated as the new name for existing US 41 based on recommendations from the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. While both route designations have advantages that are detailed below, the WIS 175 designation extends a longer route and eliminates potential confusion at the interchange with US 45/future I-41.

WIS 175

- Extends existing WIS 175 further south so that Appleton Avenue/WIS 175 continues as Appleton Avenue/WIS 175 into the City of Milwaukee (e.g. Appleton Avenue does not change from WIS 175 to WIS 341). WIS 175 extends north to Fond du Lac.
- Permanent signing at I-41/USH 45 and WIS 175 interchange is potentially less confusing since the cross road is only one route number rather than two route numbers.
- Existing unsigned WIS 341 would be removed from the state highway system.

WIS 341

- Acts as a state highway spur route for I-41/USH 41 following the guidance in the WisDOT Traffic Guidelines Manual in Section 1-11-1 for tied "300" series routes.
- The change from the "41" route number to "341" route number would create less public confusion than changing from "41" to "175".
- Using WIS 341 does not create potential confusion that may exist between WIS 145 and WIS 175. The WIS 175 and WIS 145 route numbers are similar and the WIS 145 route is located close and parallel to the proposed WIS 175 route.

