

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-office Communication

**DATE:** 12/30/2025

**TO:** Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Joe Lamers, Acting Director, Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT:** From the Acting Director, Department of Transportation providing an Informational Report on a rail with trails shared bicycle and pedestrian feasibility study in the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor from the Hank Aaron Trail to Havenwoods State Forest.

**FILE TYPE:** Informational Report

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**REQUEST**

This report is for informational purposes only.

**BACKGROUND**

The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Director's Office is facilitating a feasibility study for a potential rail with trails shared bicycle and pedestrian path within the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. The project corridor is centered on a railroad right of way to the west of 30<sup>th</sup> Street from the Menomonee Valley to Havenwoods State Forest. The planned shared-use trail facility, measuring 7-miles in length, will offer underserved neighborhoods with vital connections to recreational as well as employment and education centers, thereby extending access to the Oak Leaf Trail and Hank Aaron State Trail. The grade-separated nature of the railroad right of way would allow for residents walking or biking through Milwaukee County's dense grid of streets to travel safely and efficiently.

The railroad is owned and operated by WATCO/Wisconsin Southern, which is a Class II Railroad. An additional section closer to the Menomonee Valley is owned by the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company. The corridor actively serves railroad customers particularly in the Glendale Yards railroad site.

MCDOT is facilitating this study through a Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Transportation Alternatives Grant (TAP) in the amount of \$700,000 originally awarded to the Milwaukee County Parks Department.

The project will include multiple public involvement meetings to engage community residents and leaders on the potential impacts of a shared bicycle and pedestrian path in the 30<sup>th</sup> street industrial corridor. Further, the project aims to partner with railroad companies operating within and through Milwaukee County to achieve shared

objectives. The final report will present on feasibility, design, and preferred alternative concepts.

MCDOT anticipates the length of the project to be between 18-24 months. Members of the community, business improvements districts, and neighborhood associations will be heavily involved in the project timeline.

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Describe how the item aligns to the strategic plan:

- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for informational purposes only.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

There is no fiscal effect.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Joe Lamers, Acting Director, Department of Transportation

John Rodgers, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

Danny Park, Sr Transportation Planner, Department of Transportation

Cassie Goodwin, Senior Principal, SmithGroup, [Cassie.goodwin@smithgroup.com](mailto:Cassie.goodwin@smithgroup.com)

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### **PREPARED BY:**

Danny Park, Sr Transportation Planner, Department of Transportation

### **APPROVED BY:**



Joe Lamers, Acting Director, Department of Transportation

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

PowerPoint

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors

Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk