

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: November 13, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Informational Report – Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) I-43 North-South Project Update

POLICY

This report is for informational purposes only.

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin has 115,543 miles of public roads, from Interstate freeways to city and village streets. This highway improvement program covers only the 11,745-mile state highway system which is administered and maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The other 103,798 miles are improved and maintained by the cities, towns, counties and villages in which they are located.

The state highway system consists of 876 miles of Interstate freeways and 10,869 miles of state and US-marked highways. While the 11,745 miles of state highways represent only 10.2% of all public road mileage in Wisconsin, they carry over 38 billion vehicle miles of travel a year, or about 58.6 % of the total annual statewide highway travel.

Each invested dollar returns benefits in terms of time savings, fewer accidents and decreased vehicle operating costs. Poor roads mean more accidents and deaths, higher insurance costs, wear and tear on vehicles, more time on the road and less efficient and competitive commerce.

The I-43 North-South Freeway is among the busiest routes in Wisconsin and is a critical Interstate link between southeast Wisconsin and the entire state. I-43 provides access to manufacturers, merchants, commuters and tourists within southeast Wisconsin, the Milwaukee metropolitan area, and other areas including Green Bay, Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Chicago. WisDOT has maintained and rehabilitated the ramps, bridges, pavements and other structures on I-43 for 50 years. The North-South Freeway has exceeded its design life and it is no longer economical to maintain.

This project includes the expansion of I-43 from four to six lanes, the reconstruction of five existing interchanges along the corridor, and the replacement of the Union Pacific railroad bridge over I-43 in Glendale. The project also includes the expansion of a section of Port Washington

Road in Glendale from two lanes to four lanes. During construction, the project will work to keep two lanes open in each direction - similar to existing conditions.

The purpose of the project is to address:

- Emerging pavement and structural needs
- Safety issues
- Design deficiencies, including clearance at bridges, visibility, and merging and weaving distances
- Existing and projected traffic volumes

This design will evaluate:

- Replacing deteriorating pavement and bridges
- Reducing congestion and improving safety
- Providing efficient freeway operations
- Improving or replacing existing interchanges
- Proposed new interchange at Highland Road
- Minimizing impacts to natural and built environments
- Congestion and crashes

I-43 carries 49,000 vehicles per day south of WIS 60 and 85,460 vehicles per day north of Silver Spring Drive. There is regular and significant congestion in the corridor today. Future projections show traffic growing to 65,000 vehicles per day south of WIS 60 and 112,500 vehicles per day just north of Silver Spring Drive by 2040.

Schedule

	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024			2025		
Design/ Engineering	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Right of Way Acquisition/Utility Relocations				■	■	■	■	■	■									
Construction										■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Work Zone Prep																		
North End Mainline																		
County Line/Port Rd Interchange																		
Port Rd																		
South End Mainline/Good Hope Rd/Brown Deer Rd/UPRR Bridge													■	■	■			
Mequon Interchange																		
Polymer Bridge																		
Overlays/Wrap Up Work																		
Public Involvement	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Sequencing

1. Work Zone Prep: late 2021 construction – various locations, July 2021 letting
2. North End Segment: 2022-2023 construction, Nov 2021 letting
3. County Line Rd Segment: 2022 construction, Dec 2021 letting
4. Port Washington Rd: 2022 construction, Dec 2021 letting
5. South End Segment + UPRR Bridge: 2023-2024 construction, Nov 2022 letting
6. Mequon Rd Segment: 2023-2024 construction, Dec 2022 letting

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

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