**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** November 20, 2012

**TO:** Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, County Board Chairwoman

**FROM:** Charles Wikenhauser, Zoo Director

**SUBJECT:** **Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for Traffic Mitigation for the Zoo Interchange Project**

**Request**

The Milwaukee County Zoo requests approval to execute an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) for traffic mitigation during the Zoo Interchange Project to ensure safer and more efficient travel near the Milwaukee County Zoo.

**Background**

The project area is defined as interstates I-94 and I894/USH-45 from Lincoln Avenue on the south, west of Underwood Parkway on the west, Burleigh Road on the north and 70th Street on the east. Included in the project area are local and alternate route streets within two miles of the interstate roadways, which will directly impact Zoo guests.

To mitigate traffic impacts caused by the project, the WDOT will provide up to $12,000 in reimbursement to the Milwaukee County Zoo to purchase three point-of-sale tablets to help admit vehicles faster as well as reduce delay on large event days. The Zoo, in turn, will provide planning, coordination and staffing services in an effort to mitigate traffic impacts in the project area and stay informed of roadway closures and construction progress for a two-year period commencing on January 1, 2013 and ending on December 31, 2014.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that following review by Corporation Counsel and Risk Management, the Director of the Milwaukee County Zoo be authorized to execute an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for a Traffic Mitigation Plan for the Zoo Interchange Project and to accept up to $12,000 in reimbursement from WDOT for the purchase of three tablets.

Authorization is also requested for the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to process an administrative fund transfer of $12,000 in the Zoo’s operating budget for the purchase of three point-of-sale tablets which will result in the County incurring costs upfront with reimbursement to be provided from the State.

Charles Wikenhauser

Zoo Director

Pc: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

Supervisor Gerry Broderick, Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel & Audit Committee

Supervisor David Cullen, Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel & Audit Committee

Scott Manske, Comptroller

Amber Moreen, Chief of Staff, County Executive’s Office

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board

Tia Torhorst, Director of Legislative Affairs, County Executive’s Office

Patrick Farley, Director, Department of Administrative Services

Craig Kammholz, Fiscal and Budget Administrator, DAS

Vincent Masterson, Fiscal and Management Analyst, DAS

Steve Cady, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, County Board

Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research Analyst, County Board

Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director (Administration & Finance)

Karl Hackbarth, Zoo Operations and Maintenance Coordinator

Sue Rand, Accounting Manager, Zoo