

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**Department of Transportation**

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: February 19, 2021  
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
SUBJECT: Informational Report on Highway Speeds and Safety Issues

**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 Interstate in Milwaukee and S.E. Wisconsin have been slowly improved in segments across the region. In Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Department of Transportation has completed reconstruction on the Marquette Interchange, Mitchell Interchange, Zoo Interchange, North-South Freeway to the Countyline and Stateline. Even though these are significant projects, there are gaps in terms of reconstruction of key segments connecting the work between Interchanges and the full Interstate corridor connecting these segments. Safety and out of date geometric design elements on these segments yet to be reconstructed, prevent the State from raising travel speeds.

**ISSUE**

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors have requested Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and the Milwaukee County Sheriff's departments to provide analyses in two areas:

- 1) Data on Crashes on key pinch points in the County, specifically E/W gap between the Marquette Interchange and Zoo Interchange; The Hale Interchange and road improvements south on I-43.

- 2) Safety improvements needed on gap areas around the county and specifically look at the two important areas listed above and I-41 North of Burleigh Ave.
- 3) Potential budgetary impacts associated with these safety needs and improvement identified.

The analysis will be presented during the April 2021 reporting process.

Approved by:

*Julie Esch, Deputy Director*

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Donna Brown-Martin

Director, Department of Transportation