

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: August 20, 2021

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: An update of the overview on the project status of the current Capital Improvement Projects in the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation-Transportation Services Division

BACKGROUND

On both September 4, 2019 and May 13, 2020, an informational report was presented to TPW & T Committee providing an overview on the project status of the current Capital Improvement Projects in the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)-Transportation Services Division. Since the last informational report, there has been an increase in the number of Capital Improvement Projects (18 to 26 an increase of 8 projects) along with an increase in Federal/State funding (\$17,170,746 to \$31,024,914 an increase of \$13,854,168).

MCDOT Transportation Services Division currently has 26 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that are being worked on with varying improvement types, schedules, and funding. Of the 26 CIP's, only 2 have 100% County funding totaling \$565,000. The remaining 24 CIP's funding have Federal or State participation ranging from up to 50% to 90% totaling \$31,024,914. MCDOT Transportation Services Division continues to work hard to obtain as much outside funding as possible to offset County funding required to complete the CIP's. Each of the CIP's typically have three (3) project phases those being design, right-of-way acquisition and construction. The normal length of time to complete the design phase ranges from 1 to 3 years, depending on the type of improvement and if right-of-way acquisition is needed. The additional 1 year of design normally includes the efforts required for right-of-way acquisition. The normal length of time to substantially complete construction is typically 1 construction season (April to November) and is dependent on weather, contractor performance, utility conflicts, delays in delivery of materials, and other unforeseen circumstances. Because of the short construction season in Wisconsin, it is usual for the final completion of construction to cycle into the next construction season. Since most of the CIP's have Federal or State funding, it requires MCDOT Transportation Services Division to follow Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) process, procedures, and requirements, involving significant amount of coordination, reporting and quality control. In addition, WisDOT provides limited administration, oversight, and approvals to ensure MCDOT Transportation Services Division is abiding to the requirements as to not jeopardize the Federal or State funding. The Federal or State funding is obtained through an application and selection process and finalized by execution of a State/Municipal Agreement (SMA). In the SMA it defines a deadline for the project to be completed in order to receive the funding. Since WisDOT oversees most of the Federal and State funding, they schedule the project deadlines to reflect the deadline defined in the SMA.

Therefore, it is critical for the Capital Improvement budgets be adopted from year to year to remain on track with the project deadlines, avoiding delays that could potentially risk the loss of Federal or State funding.

Included is an updated summary of the 26 CIP's status along with a separate Project Status Overview for each of the CIP's that provides more detailed information. Updates since the May 13, 2020 report are shown in red font.

MCDOT has maps available illustrating information about County Trunk Highways (CTH), County owned bridges and County owned traffic signals which can be accessed on the MCDOT website (<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Department-of-Transportation/Transportation-Services/County-Trunk-Highway-Maps>). There are 18 (81 centerline miles) County Trunk Highways (CTH), 106 County owned bridges and 88 traffic signals.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

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cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk