

March 13th, 2007

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Subject: Streetscape Improvements
West Wisconsin Avenue from
North 2nd Street to the Milwaukee River

Dear Council Members:

Funding has been made available to the City through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) under the Federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program to develop primary pedestrian corridors in the Milwaukee Central Business District. The purpose of this project is to promote walking in the Downtown area as an alternative means of transportation, and would be accomplished through the implementation of improvements to walkways and the pedestrian environment in general.

The pedestrian corridors would be implemented through a series of streetscape improvements on East/West Wisconsin Avenue, North Water Street and East/West Kilbourn Avenue in the Downtown area. Construction of streetscape improvements has been completed on Wisconsin Avenue from 2nd to 4th Streets, and from the Milwaukee River to the intersection of N. Prospect Ave. and E. Mason Street. Currently underway is a portion of Wisconsin Avenue from 10th to 4th Streets.

Implementation of the next stage of stage of streetscape construction is proposed for West Wisconsin Avenue from North 2nd Street to the Milwaukee River in 2007. The project will include elements such as sidewalk replacement, street lighting upgrades, landscaping, a wayfinding system, and other pedestrian amenities.

The total estimated cost of this phase of construction is \$2,600,000, with \$2,080,000, or 80 percent funded through WISDOT under the CMAQ Program and with a City share of \$520,000 or 20 percent.

We have prepared and recommend adoption of the attached resolution, which authorizes construction of the fourth phase of the streetscape project. This resolution also authorizes the City Comptroller to transfer funds to the project sub-account for the estimated construction costs.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.
City Engineer

Jeffrey J. Mantes
Commissioner of Public Works

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