

..Number

090256

..Version

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE

..Reference

..Sponsor

ALD. MURPHY, BAUMAN AND KOVAC

..Title

Substitute resolution expressing the City of Milwaukee's position on the proposed reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange.

..Analysis

With this resolution, the City of Milwaukee takes the following position relating to the proposed reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange:

1. The preferred alternative is to rebuild the interchange with 6 lanes and safety improvements.
2. The money saved by reconstructing the Interchange with 6 lanes, rather than proceeding with the option that expands it to 8 lanes, should be appropriated to local governments for the maintenance and reconstruction of existing local roads and bridges.
3. The number of structures in the city of Milwaukee acquired and demolished for this project should be kept to a minimum.
4. Any reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange should make provisions for a transit right-of-way that extends from the former West Allis Air Line railroad right-of-way on the southern edge of the Interchange northward toward the Milwaukee County Grounds to preserve the option of installing mass transit service from downtown Milwaukee to the County Grounds at a future time.
5. As a traffic mitigation measure, commuter rail service should be operated along the Canadian Pacific mainline between Milwaukee and Watertown throughout the duration of the construction phase of the Zoo Interchange project.

..Body

Whereas, The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has released a draft environmental impact statement for the proposed reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange (the junction of Interstates 94 and 894 and U.S. Highway 45) that describes 4 alternatives for the project with the following costs:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Do nothing | \$0 |
| 2. Rebuild interchange in its current configuration | \$960 million |

3. Rebuild the interchange with 6 lanes and safety improvements \$2.16 billion

4. Rebuild the interchange with 8 lanes and safety improvements \$2.31 billion

; and

Whereas, An expansion of the Zoo Interchange to 8 lanes will encourage motor vehicle use and dependence, thereby increasing air pollution and reliance on foreign oil supplies, and leaving the Milwaukee-area economy and residents of the region at the mercy of gasoline price fluctuations; and

Whereas, The Zoo Interchange reconstruction plans make no provisions for improved mass transit in or around the Interchange and ignore the public's growing preference for a balanced, multi-modal transportation system that gives travelers and shippers a variety of options for personal and business travel and cargo transport; and

Whereas, An audit of the City's residential street paving program by the City Comptroller found that over one-fifth of Milwaukee's residential streets are in poor condition and that the cost of bringing all residential streets up to fair or good condition could be as much as \$780 million over 25 years; and

Whereas, It is fundamentally unjust for the federal and state governments to saddle local property taxpayers with the burden of paying to maintain and reconstruct existing local streets and bridges while at the same time funding the expansion of Interstate highways; and

Whereas, The Common Council finds that the costs to the City of Milwaukee, its residents and taxpayers of reconstructing and expanding the Zoo Interchange to 8 lanes far outweigh the benefits of the additional lanes; and

Whereas, The Common Council further finds that the \$150 million that may be spent to expand the Zoo Interchange from 6 lanes to 8 lanes could be more wisely used to provide additional aid to local governments for street and bridge maintenance, thereby preserving and improving the region's existing infrastructure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the City of Milwaukee takes the following position with respect to the proposed reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange:

1. The preferred alternative for reconstruction of the Interchange is option 3, which makes various necessary safety improvements but does not increase the number of lanes in the Interchange.

2. The money saved by reconstructing the Interchange as outlined in option 3, rather than proceeding with option 4, should be appropriated to local governments for the maintenance and reconstruction of existing local roads and bridges.
3. The number of structures in the city of Milwaukee acquired and demolished for this project should be kept to a minimum.
4. Any reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange should make provisions for a transit right-of-way that extends from the former West Allis Air Line railroad right-of-way on the southern edge of the Interchange northward toward the Milwaukee County Grounds to preserve the option of installing rapid transit service from downtown Milwaukee to the County Grounds at a future time.
5. As a traffic mitigation measure, commuter rail service should be operated along the Canadian Pacific mainline between Milwaukee and Watertown, with intermediary stops at Wauwatosa, Elm Grove, Brookfield, Pewaukee, Hartland and Oconomowoc, throughout the duration of the construction phase of the Zoo Interchange project.

; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Doyle, the City of Milwaukee's representatives in the Wisconsin Legislature and Secretary of Transportation Busalacchi.

..Requestor

..Drafter
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JDO
06/23/2009