



February 1, 2021

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton  
Chair - City of Milwaukee Judiciary & Legislation Committee  
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Chairman Hamilton,

We are writing to you and the members of the Milwaukee Common Council's Judiciary & Legislation Committee in regard to your consideration of Resolution File 201313 that would direct the City of Milwaukee to lobby against the reconstruction of the I-94 East-West Corridor. We ask that you reconsider this, as the I-94 East-West Corridor is in desperate need to be replaced.

Our four unions have thousands of members who work on vital infrastructure projects and are ready to get to work rebuilding the aging I-94 East-West Corridor. This project is vital for the respective economy of the City of Milwaukee, SE Wisconsin, and the state as a whole. Our union members built both the Marquette Interchange and the Zoo Interchange, but unfortunately the current corridor is a bottleneck and creates congestion, is outdated, and is unsafe.

While shovels would not be in the ground for a few years, this project would create up to 10,000 good paying and family supporting jobs, many of which will be for residents of the City of Milwaukee. Economic uncertainty remains because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic but having a project like the I-94 East-West Corridor on the horizon will help with our economic recovery.

This project will also provide a conduit for new apprentices to learn a craft which leads to a rewarding career working in the building and construction trades. As we have seen in other projects of this magnitude, opportunities arise for DBE's to provide equity and opportunity for many Milwaukee businesses.

Lastly, we want to reiterate that the funding for this project is non-transferrable. Our unions appreciate and understand that freeway and transit projects are complementary, and both are needed to reduce congestion, increase safety, and promote economic development. However, the funds for this project cannot simply be reallocated for transit or other local road construction.

We thank you for your consideration of these issues and ask that you reconsider the City of Milwaukee lobbying against this project.

Sincerely,

International Union of Operating Engineers Local #139  
Iron Workers Local #8  
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters  
Wisconsin Laborers' District Council

Cc: Alderwoman Dodd (Vice-Chair), Alderman Bauman, Alderman Murphy, and Alderman Spiker