

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WAUKESHA COUNTY BOARD PASSES ORDINANCE
SUPPORTING WAUKESHA BYPASS**

WAUKESHA, Wis. – The Waukesha County Board of Supervisors approved to amend the County’s 2009 capital budget to begin work on the proposed Waukesha West Bypass Tuesday evening by a vote of 23-0. County Executive Dan Vrakas announced that a consensus had been reached with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the City of Waukesha in May to move forward with the construction of the West Waukesha Bypass.

“Passage of this ordinance moves the Waukesha West Bypass from a dream to a reality,” Vrakas said. “The bypass has been long awaited, much anticipated and debated by the citizens, businesses and leaders in this County for over a generation. I am pleased to see progress on this important project and will gladly sign this ordinance into law.”

The passed ordinance states that the County will provide a maximum of \$8.6 million in funding for the project and that work will begin immediately on the preliminary design and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. The EIS, which begins this fall, will take environmental issues, public comment and governmental agency concerns into consideration when determining the bypass route. The EIS is expected to be completed in 2011.

The St. Paul Avenue, Sunset Drive, Merrill Hills Road, and Meadowbrook Road corridor is currently a 2-lane roadway that has been acting as an alternate West Waukesha Bypass since the portion of Meadowbrook Road between USH 18 and Northview Road was opened in 1997. Traffic volumes along some portions of the roadway are as high as 16,000 vehicles per day. Typically roadways are widened to four lanes once traffic volumes have reached 13,000 vehicles per day.

“Waukesha County Board Passes Ordinance Supporting Waukesha Bypass,” continued . . .

The proposal for the project includes a local share of up to \$8.6 million from Waukesha County, \$2 million from the City of Waukesha and the balance funded from WisDOT.

“This project has more than fifty years of history,” Vrakas said. “The plans to construct this bypass were pulled in the 90’s due to a lack of consensus. Since that time, many leaders from the County, City and Town have expressed support for this project and this success is much attributed to their hard work, passion and determination.”

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