



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vrakas and Nelson Announce Proposal for Waukesha Bypass

WAUKESHA, Wis. – County Executive Dan Vrakas, City of Waukesha Mayor Larry Nelson and Town Chairman Bob Tallinger today announced that a consensus has been reached with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to move forward with the construction of the long awaited West Waukesha Bypass. Both the County Executive and the Mayor will bring the proposal before their respective boards in the coming months.

“This project has been anticipated for a very long time,” Vrakas said. “Advocating for this project as a Waukesha business owner in the late 1980’s, this project was one of the sparks that lit my passion for public service. This bypass has been the dream of many citizens, businesses and community leaders for more than a generation, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to announce our agreement today.”

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. Typical roadways are widened to four lanes once traffic volumes have reached 13,000 vehicles per day.

“I would like to thank the staff of the Wisconsin DOT for their efforts in making this idea a reality,” said Nelson. “The leadership and personal involvement of DOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi helped make this agreement possible.”

WisDOT had plans to construct the bypass in the early 1990’s; however, the project was pulled due to a lack of local consensus. Since that time the County, City and Town have expressed their support for the project. The proposal 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.

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The County will take the lead on the first step of the process, which is funding the Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The EIS will take environmental issues, public comment and governmental agency concerns into consideration when determining the bypass route. If the County Board and City Council approve the agreement, it is anticipated that the EIS process will begin this fall and be completed in early 2011.

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