



As part of the 2020-21 reevaluation and startup, WisDOT continues to work to meet the varied needs of Milwaukee's diverse communities.

What are the benefits of moving forward with the project?

Moving forward in this budget with enumeration and requested funding:

- **Maximizes the return on the \$2.4 billion the state and federal governments have made** to rebuild the Marquette and Zoo interchanges. These modern interchanges will only work as well as intended if the primary freeway connecting them is equally efficient and safe.
- **Avoids a no-win decision between two bad options:** a continual cycle of costly Band-Aid solutions – such as another resurfacing (estimated at \$40 million-plus) – or a replace-in-kind scenario where the state pays for the construction of a brand-new bottleneck at the cost of more than half a billion dollars. While reconstructing the segment as-is will alleviate the need for short-term patches, it will do nothing to address the underlying safety and congestion issues.
- **Preserves the roughly \$20 million the state has already invested** in planning, environmental study, early engineering work, and the consensus built among a broad range of stakeholders.
- **Reduces emissions and benefits regional air quality** by relieving congestion, improving traffic operations, lessening delays from crashes, and increasing travel speeds.
- **Supports additional economic development in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties** and enhances the region's efforts to grow. A good transportation network is key to economic growth and job creation and consistently ranks as one of the top criteria among business executives determining desirable commercial investment locations.