



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

June 28, 2005

Senator Dale Schultz, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Judith Robson, Senate Minority Leader

Dear Senators Schultz and Robson:

I'm writing in opposition to funding preliminary engineering of the Zoo Interchange.

Despite its name, there is nothing preliminary about "preliminary engineering" when the cost is \$38 million. It may not include final construction and shop drawings, but it is, in every sense of the word, engineering.

Before a project can be engineered it needs to be planned. And the freeway plan for Southeast Wisconsin is utterly baseless. Milwaukee County has not endorsed SEWRPC's freeway plan and the City of Milwaukee is on record as opposed to it. Even the Federal government was highly critical of SEWRPC's lack of credibility in reflecting the values of diverse urban communities and needs.

Spending taxpayers' money on this project before we have a consensus on where we're headed with the freeway system is foolish. SEWRPC had the opportunity to build this consensus, but instead chose to further divide the metro area on transportation issues. The result is a climate in which any freeway project in Milwaukee County will be unnecessarily contentious, resulting in wasted dollars and delays.

Let's get agreement on our transportation priorities, before throwing \$38 million at the highway engineers without a plan for what a successful interchange and freeway system will look like. Unlike the Marquette Interchange, the Zoo Interchange will stand long enough for us to resolve these issues.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Mayor
cc: Milwaukee Delegation

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