

# RESOLUTION

## ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Public Works Committee  
INITIATED BY

Public Works Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

Ben Coopman, Public Works Director  
DRAFTED BY

September 27, 2010  
DATE DRAFTED

### SUPPORT OF WIDENING AND IMPROVING INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 39/90 IN ROCK AND DANE COUNTIES

1 **WHEREAS**, the Interstate Highway 39/90 (IH-39/90) corridor is a major transportation asset in  
 2 Wisconsin; and,  
 3  
 4 **WHEREAS**, IH-39/90 in Rock and Dane Counties has experienced a significant increase in traffic  
 5 volume, congestion and crashes in the segment between the Illinois state line and Interstate  
 6 Highway-94; and,  
 7  
 8 **WHEREAS**, this segment of IH-39/90 is a key element in supporting the commerce of Wisconsin  
 9 and Rock County; and,  
 10  
 11 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin and Rock County are facing challenges of high unemployment and a  
 12 depressed economy; and,  
 13  
 14 **WHEREAS**, adding lanes and improving the interchanges along this segment of IH-39/90 will be  
 15 one action of many the State of Wisconsin can take to address all of these above-mentioned issues.  
 16  
 17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors  
 18 assembled this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010 does give its full support to the construction of this  
 19 improvement project on IH-39/90 as soon as possible; and,  
 20  
 21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors urge the  
 22 Transportation Projects Commission, Governor and Legislature to approve and fund this project at  
 23 the next available time; and,  
 24  
 25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor, the  
 26 Transportation Projects Commission, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Rock  
 27 County legislative delegation.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Kurtis L. Yankee  
Kurtis Yankee, Chair

Betty Jo Bussie  
Betty Jo Bussie, Vice-Chair

Eva M. Arnold  
Eva M. Arnold

Absent  
David Diestler

Brent Fox  
Brent Fox

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

J. Russell Podznilni  
J. Russell Podznilni, Chair

Sandra Kraft  
Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

Eva Arnold  
Eva Arnold

Henry Brill  
Henry Brill

Betty Jo Bussie  
Betty Jo Bussie

Ivan Collins  
Ivan Collins

Marilynn Jensen  
Marilynn Jensen

Louis Peer  
Louis Peer

Kurtis L. Yankee  
Kurtis Yankee

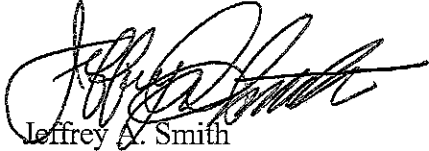
10-10A-164

**Support of Widening and Improving Interstate Highway 39/90 in Rock and Dane Counties**

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FISCAL NOTE:

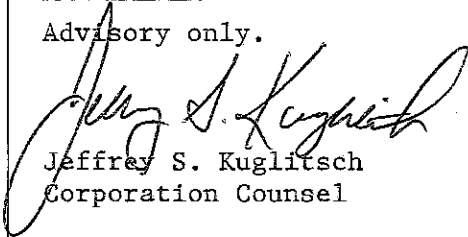
This resolution addresses a legislative policy issue and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.



Jeffrey A. Smith  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Craig Knutson  
County Administrator

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -  
SUPPORT OF WIDENING AND IMPROVING  
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 39/90 IN ROCK AND DANE COUNTIES

The State of Wisconsin has established by statute (84.013) criteria to define, select (enumerate) and fund major transportation projects in the state. Generally, major projects are defined by the fact that they will add traffic capacity (lanes) of five (5) miles or longer in length and/or will cost more than \$5.0 million to construct. These projects do not proceed in the normal Department of Transportation (DOT) project process.

Once a major project is identified and screened by DOT, it is referred to the Transportation Projects Commission (TPC). The TPC is appointed by the governor and consists of the governor as chair, legislators from each house of the legislature, several citizens at large and the Secretary of Transportation (ex-officio). It has not met for many years previously.

The DOT has identified five major projects statewide for consideration by the TPC for enumeration on October 19, 2010. One of the projects is the adding of lanes and interchange improvements on Interstate Highway 39/90 (IH-39/90) from the Illinois state line to its junction with IH-94 in Dane County. The pavement and bridges will be widened from four to six lanes. Interchanges will also undergo some modifications to accept the additional lanes and/or to build them to modern day standards.

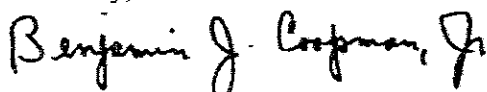
The current four-lane facility is frequently operating at or over capacity. Traffic delays often occur and they are lengthy. Certain segments carry up to 40% trucks, which adds to safety challenges of the route. Crash rates are above average in several areas. Frequently crashes, even minor ones, cause traffic tie-ups.

The high percentage of trucks is both a good and bad thing. Trucks indicate an economic benefit as goods move through or to destinations in Wisconsin and Rock County. Even trucks passing through consume goods and services in our area and state. Unfortunately, trucks are often involved in traffic accidents and exacerbate traffic tie-ups and delays. Improving the corridor encourages its use and opens economic opportunities for Rock County and south-central Wisconsin.

Adding lanes and reconfiguring interchanges will improve traffic safety. A safer road will lead to fewer crashes and related traffic delays. These improvements will have indirect benefits to emergency responders by lowering the number of incidents they must attend.

Besides considering projects that improve capacity and safety and enhance economic development and job creation, the TPC also considers local support for candidate projects. Seldom do projects lacking local buy-in get enumerated. Adoption of this resolution clearly demonstrates Rock County's strong support for the project for worthwhile reasons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sincerely,



Benjamin J. Coopman, Jr., P.E.  
Public Works Director