



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 12, 2022**

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## **Coalition Critiques I-94 Proposal ahead of Public Hearing**

*Elected official, activists and impacted neighbors renew the call for a Fix at Six solution*

MILWAUKEE - The Coalition for More Responsible Transportation (CMRT) hosted a [press event](#) responding to Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)'s proposed project alternatives prior to today's public hearing on the project's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS).

"WisDOT's massive preferred alternative is deficient in so many ways -- from environmental and racial justice shortcomings, to its climate change, water and air impacts, and land use and development impacts," said **Attorney Dennis Grzezinski, Legal Chair for the Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter**. "The Fix at Six alternative addresses the region's transportation needs without these downsides of WisDOT's costly \$1.25 billion proposal."

Coalition members shared concerns about the DSEIS and continued their call for a [Fix at Six](#) solution, including long term public transit investment, for the corridor. The *Fix at Six* solution includes biking and walking infrastructure and a bus-rapid-transit system in addition to repairing the highway at six lanes and in its current footprint.

"We are disappointed that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has selected the eight-lane design as its preferred alternative and that it did not seriously consider an alternative along the lines of the Fix at Six proposal that the CMRT produced last year," said **Tony Wilkin Gibart, Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates**. "It is time to stop catering to suburban commuters at the expense of the health and wellbeing of Milwaukeeans. It is time to stop spending billions to induce the pumping of more carbon into the atmosphere. It is time to do something different. We urge WisDOT to abandon the eight-lane expansion and implement a project in line with the Fix at Six proposal."

The years-long fight in opposition to this highway expansion is rooted in concerns for the environment, the climate, the quality of life of surrounding communities, racial justice and more.

**Terry Wiggins, Milwaukee Steering Committee Member of 350.org Milwaukee** said, "I hope to leave a healthy climate for my grandchildren to enjoy. But that won't happen if we continue to build and expand freeways, because there would necessarily be more cars on the road. More

traffic means increased greenhouse gas emissions, the cause of global warming. I encourage following the points of the Fix at Six plan.”

“WisDOT’s proposed I-94 expansion would increase the highway footprint by 42-49 acres, increasing polluted stormwater runoff to the Menomonee River and several creeks to the west and flow to the combined sewers to the east, increasing the risk of flooding and sewage overflows during severe wet weather,” said **Riverkeeper Cheryl Nenn with Wisconsin Riverkeeper**. “We need the Fix at Six alternative, which would reconstruct the highway in the existing footprint, while improving safety. We also need more funding for stormwater management and protection of natural areas and waterways in this highway corridor—not to further degrade them.”

“WisDOT’s funding priorities are inexcusable,” said **Gregg May, Transportation Policy Director at 1000 Friends of Wisconsin**. “They propose spending a billion dollars to expand a highway even though Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) is facing a fiscal cliff that will result in devastating service cuts for tens of thousands of Milwaukeeans. WisDOT is leaving vulnerable populations behind to improve suburban commute times.”

“Considering the impact on the environment and the people, I encourage the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to look at a more environmentally friendly, and long-term solution. I stand in support of the Fix at Six Proposal,” concluded **Pastor Richard D. Shaw, president of MICAH (Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope)**.

WISDOT is hosting public hearings on the proposed expansion today, December 12, and Wednesday, December 14. Public [comments](#) will be accepted in writing until January 17.

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*The [Coalition for More Responsible Transportation \(CMRT\)](#) is composed of faith-based, public interest, social justice, public health, environmental and transportation advocacy groups, as well as of hundreds of concerned citizens from Milwaukee and beyond. CMRT is calling for more responsible, cost-effective transportation spending that better meets local needs, including a focus on accessible, efficient, affordable public transit, and complete walking and biking infrastructure.*