



# Memorandum



## ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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TO: Gary Barczak, Chair, Board of Public Works  
Michael Czaplewski, First District  
Martin Weigel, Second District  
Daniel Roadt, Fourth District  
James Sengstock, Fifth District

FROM: Michael Lewis, City Engineer

DATE: October 30, 2009

**RE: Communication from City Engineer regarding the Zoo Interchange Project and Potential Impact on 76<sup>th</sup> Street**

WisDOT is in the planning process for the reconstruction of the Zoo Interchange. One option they have is closing the 84<sup>th</sup> Street off ramp and building a "Texas U-Turn" to 84<sup>th</sup> Street with an opening onto 76<sup>th</sup> Street. Even though we have repeatedly asked for traffic projections, we have not received any traffic numbers for 76<sup>th</sup> Street using this option. We feel the traffic impacts will be great because many drivers will not use the "Texas U-Turn" to get back to 84<sup>th</sup> Street, but use 76<sup>th</sup> Street instead.

One reason WisDOT is considering this option is it avoids buying an office building just west of 84<sup>th</sup> Street on the north side of I-94 to the tune of \$25 million.

We have applied for WisDOT funding for the resurfacing of 76<sup>th</sup> Street. Even though WisDOT has claimed they have not made a final decision, we don't really believe them. One reason is that they recently told us to consider a 4 lane 76<sup>th</sup> Street and I think they will push it because they have basically decided what they want to do.

My question to the Board is should we fight this starting now. We feel that the traffic should stay on 84<sup>th</sup> Street, which is a State Trunk Highway.

Cc: Common Council  
Mayor Dan Devine  
Paul Ziehler, CAO