



city of . . .

South Milwaukee

*Proud Past ...
Promising Future*

OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER
(414) 768-8053
FAX (414) 768-8068

March 8, 2010

Dear Property Owner or Interested Party:

RE: S. Nicholson Avenue / S. Pennsylvania Avenue Expansion
Rawson Avenue to College Avenue - Project Update

The intent of this letter is to brief you on the proposed expansion of S. Nicholson Avenue / S. Pennsylvania Avenue between Rawson and College Avenues, located in the cities of South Milwaukee and Oak Creek. The reconstruction of this roadway has been discussed for many years. In 2008-09, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation approved this project for inclusion in the Surface Transportation Program for Milwaukee Urbanized area (STP-M funds). The proposed project includes capacity expansion by reconstructing the existing 2-lane roadway to a 4-lane facility. The STP-M federal funding provides approximately 80% of the estimated \$4.4 million design and construction costs, with Oak Creek and South Milwaukee each funding 10%. These funds were secured based partially on the minor arterial classification of the roadway.

A design engineering services contract with Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC, has now been approved by both cities and WISDOT. The consultant will be evaluating alternatives for the location of the new roadway within the existing corridor. The alternatives will include a 4-lane divided (with a median) roadway, and a 4-lane undivided (without a median) roadway. Based on WISDOT standards, STP-M funding, and current and projected traffic counts, a narrower cross section is unlikely to be considered. A Public Information Meeting to present design alternatives will be scheduled in June (a separate notice will be mailed). Based on the current schedule to complete design work, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocation, roadway construction is planned for 2012.

The City of Oak Creek has approved a development agreement with the United States Postal Service (USPS) for development of a mail processing and distribution center southwesterly of College and Nicholson Avenues. In conjunction with the proposed development, governmental bodies (South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, Cudahy, and Milwaukee County) have conditionally approved various street improvements on College and Nicholson Avenues to accommodate the USPS operations, which include two (2) roundabouts. One roundabout would be constructed on Nicholson, between Hickory and College; the other on College Avenue at Ace Industrial Drive. USPS has delayed initiation of their project, but it is anticipated at this time that the roadway plans approved with the Traffic Impact Analysis in 2008 will be implemented and funded by USPS.

Traffic has obviously increased along this roadway since completion of Lake Parkway (STH 794), which currently ends just south of Layton Avenue in Cudahy. Further extension of the Lake Parkway was removed from the Regional Transportation Plan in 1994. In conjunction with the Hoan Bridge discussions, Milwaukee County Supervisor Pat Jursik has worked with the Board of Supervisors to request that the Southeastern

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Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) investigate the feasibility of extending the Lake Parkway to Highway 100 at Ryan Road (or other connection to Racine County).

Mayor Zepecki and the South Milwaukee Common Council have approved a resolution supporting the study. To proceed with the extension of Lake Parkway, various government approvals, re-designation on the regional transportation plan, design, property acquisition, and state funding will be required. If the extension proceeds, construction is estimated to take place in 2025 or later. Therefore, it appears to be in the best interest of the affected communities to proceed with expansion of Nicholson / S. Pennsylvania Avenue using approved STP-M funds.

Again, we will mail and publish a notice of the public information meeting for the Nicholson/S. Pennsylvania Avenue expansion when it is scheduled.

Informational updates will also be available on the city's website: www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us , and may be accessed through the "Engineering Project Information" tab on the left side of the welcome page.

In the interim, please contact Kyle Vandercar, City Engineer at vandercar@ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us, or 414-762-2222, ext. 136 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Kyle Vandercar, P.E.
City Engineer

KV/jm

cc: South Milwaukee Common Council
Thomas Zepecki, South Milwaukee Mayor
Tami Mayzik, South Milwaukee City Administrator
Richard Bolender, Oak Creek Mayor
Oak Creek Common Council
Mike Simmons, Oak Creek Acting City Engineer
Oak Creek Administrative Team
Benedict Eruchalu, Milwaukee County