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Ald. Robert Bauman  
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## Senate Budget Includes Handout to Oak Creek for Drexel Interchange

*DOT Grant to Pay Oak Creek's \$3.75M Local Share for I-94 Project (Despite Agency's Own View that Drexel Interchange Will Harm Older Milwaukee Commercial Areas)*

Despite the fact that the state Department of Transportation deems the proposed Drexel Interchange unneeded and a threat to older commercial areas in the City of Milwaukee, the version of the Senate's adopted state budget includes a DOT grant of \$3.75 million to help push the project to fruition.

**Alderman Robert J. Bauman**, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, said the move essentially nullifies the will of Oak Creek officials and citizens, many of whom strongly oppose the interchange and wanted zero tax dollars – state or otherwise – going toward the project.

“The Senate's budget generosity shouldn't stop at the Oak Creek doorstep – I'm asking that it be extended to include funding the local share of KRM (Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail project), in my opinion a true transportation improvement that will actually benefit a much larger portion of our population,” said Alderman Bauman.

The Drexel Interchange had originally been a part of the \$1.9 billion reconstruction and expansion of North-South I-94 from Milwaukee to the Illinois border. However, Oak Creek officials have wrestled with the steep price tag of the 25% local share for the \$15.2 million project, and its Common Council will meet on June 29 to take up the matter one more time.

Final action on the proposed 2009-2011 state budget is expected in the next few weeks, as Governor Doyle has said he wants to sign a final version by July 1.

“I'll be waiting for the amendment to include DOT funding for the local share of the KRM,” Alderman Bauman said.