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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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**Ald. Michael J. Murphy**  
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**Sen. Jim Sullivan**  
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## State Trail Extension To Be Part Of Zoo Interchange Project

Alderman Michael J. Murphy and state Senator Jim Sullivan announce the extension of the Hank Aaron State Trail as part of the Zoo Interchange reconstruction project. Ald. Murphy, who represents the 10<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District – which includes the entire current Zoo Interchange – said he’s partnered with Sen. Sullivan in asking both the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to include the trail extension as a “mitigation route” as part of the overall study being conducted to plan the massive interchange reconstruction project.

“The old Soo Line (railroad) right-of-way that was acquired to extend the Hank Aaron State Trail from the Menomonee Valley westward to State Fair Park also cuts through the southern edge of the interchange, and it just makes sense to plan ahead so the trail can safely carry bicyclists, joggers and others through that area,” Ald. Murphy said.

“If the trail is extended through the interchange it will allow, for instance, residents from the far west side and from Waukesha County to ride bicycles to and from Brewers games and other events at Miller Park,” said Sen. Sullivan, whose 5<sup>th</sup> District includes portions of the City of Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, and other areas of Milwaukee and eastern Waukesha counties.

**-More-**

## **Zoo Interchange/ADD ONE**

“The Hank Aaron State Trail is not only a great recreational resource and public amenity, but as more people use bicycles as a primary mode of transportation it will also become a vital link for many commuters going to and from downtown and the Menomonee Valley,” Sen. Sullivan said.

Alderman Murphy, who has worked closely with the state DNR and citizens for years to nurture the trail’s development, said five miles of the abandoned railroad corridor have been added in recent years to extend the trail to the west. In addition to the eastern portion of the trail – which links Miller Park to the lakefront – the trail now runs west from Miller Park through the Historic National Soldiers Home and State Fair Park to Underwood Creek Parkway.

He said it is envisioned that the trail will eventually end within two miles of the Waukesha County’s New Berlin Trail which also connects to the Glacial Drumlin State Trail.

At 45 years old, the Zoo Interchange is the state’s busiest and one of its oldest freeway interchanges. The state DOT is currently undertaking an environmental and engineering analysis of interchange, which is the connection between I-94, I-894 and US 45. The DOT’s Zoo Interchange Team is conducting environmental and engineering work now through the end of 2009, and the study phase includes developing alternatives to improve the corridor, evaluating impacts of those alternatives, preparing a document that addresses environmental concerns, and selecting a preferred alternative.