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Ald. Terry Witkowski
414 286-2221

DOT To Unveil "Concept" I-94 Footprint

Public Will Get First Look Thursday at "Concept" Drawings of Realigned I-94 South From Howard Avenue; Ald. Witkowski Says Drawings Show Few Homes May be Affected

Homeowners who are understandably nervous about the possibility of losing their homes or parts of their yards to the rebuilding of I-94 south from Howard Avenue to the Illinois state line will want to attend an informational session sponsored by the state Department of Transportation on **Thursday, June 8, 2006**.

The informational session will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Best Western Airport, 5105 S. Howell Ave. Ald. Terry L. Witkowski and representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be in attendance. The public and media are encouraged to attend.

The plans to be unveiled for the first time Thursday show a rebuilt I-94 that follows the existing right-of-way very closely and would affect few homes, Ald. Witkowski said. As recently as January 2006 preliminary work done by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) for the state DOT for the rebuilding of I-94 south to the Illinois border included a redesign of the Mitchell Interchange, Plainfield Curve and the Airport Spur that would bulldoze more than 44 existing City of Milwaukee homes.

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I-94 Rebuild Concepts To be Unveiled/ADD ONE

“This is the first time the DOT has put forth a tangible plan that neighbors can comment on,” Ald. Witkowski said. “There will be several conceptual drawings for areas the DOT would like to improve, narrowing the area of improvement to specific ‘concepts.’ Many people will be relieved that the DOT did hear and act on their message, which was ‘stay within the existing right of way.’”

“I would encourage the neighbors’ continued input into the future of this project and this district,” he said.

Property owners who have deferred home improvement projects because of the project’s uncertain footprint and alignment will especially benefit from Thursday’s meeting, the alderman said.

The eight-year I-94 project, slated to get underway in 2008 after the completion of the massive Marquette Interchange reconstruction project, would cost about \$1 billion.