



September 2, 2025

Secretary Kristina Boardman  
 Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
 4822 Madison Yards Way  
 Madison, WI 53707

We are a coalition of businesses, economic development organizations, labor unions, and other stakeholders deeply committed to the future of I-94 in western Waukesha County. We respectfully request the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to recommend and include a study for the expansion of Interstate 94 in western Waukesha County as a Major Highway Project at the next Transportation Projects Commission (TPC) meeting.

The I-94 corridor between Milwaukee and Madison is vital to Wisconsin's economy, accounting for 40% of the state's total economic output. Rapid regional growth, including new developments like Costco in Pabst Farms, Wis-Pak's new headquarters in Oconomowoc, Olympia Fields mixed use development, and major investments in Jefferson County, highlights the need for expanded infrastructure to support continued progress.

Recent economic investments include:

- **Kikkoman Corporation** – \$560M facility in Jefferson
- **Nestlé Purina** – \$195M expansion
- **Aztalan Bio** – \$500M biorefinery project
- **Onego Bio** – \$250–\$300M facility in Jefferson

Meanwhile, the Pabst Farms and Summit areas are seeing a surge in development, with large-scale residential and mixed-use projects underway, including the Pabst59 innovation hub and Mandel Group apartments.

This growth underscores the urgent need to modernize I-94. Currently, the highway narrows from three to two lanes in each direction in western Waukesha County, causing daily congestion, increased travel times, and higher crash rates. According to WisDOT, this segment carries an average of 75,000 vehicles per day, and its inefficiencies cost businesses time, money, and workforce access.

The consequences extend beyond economics. As one first responder from the Western Lakes Fire District shared:

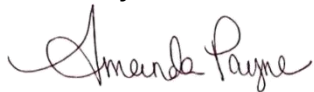
“As a first responder with the Western Lakes Fire District, I am called to vehicle crashes in our District and neighboring communities along the I-94 corridor. I have witnessed firsthand the consequences of congested, outdated highway infrastructure. The recurring accidents and delays not only put our community at risk, but also divert scarce, critical resources away from other emergencies in the communities we are sworn to protect. Expanding I-94 from Highway SS to the Waukesha County line will significantly reduce preventable accidents, enhance safety for motorists and responders alike, and ensure that this vital artery can accommodate current and future growth in our region.”

More than 7,500 people commute from Jefferson County into Waukesha County daily, with thousands more continuing to Milwaukee County. Additionally, 72,000 Milwaukee County residents work in Waukesha County, while 67,000 Waukesha residents commute east. Over 11,000 people commute between Waukesha and Dane counties. I-94’s functionality and reliability are directly tied to labor mobility and workforce access across southeastern Wisconsin.

This is not just a transportation issue, it’s a workforce and economic development issue. As Wisconsin seeks to attract advanced manufacturing and other industries, modern, efficient infrastructure must be a priority.

We commend WisDOT and the administration for previous infrastructure investments and encourage you to continue building on that momentum. We, the undersigned organizations, strongly support the advancement of the I-94 project in western Waukesha County and urge WisDOT to prioritize its progress. Advancing a study for I-94 expansion in western Waukesha County is a smart, high-impact move that will strengthen Wisconsin’s economy for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Amanda Payne  
President & CEO  
Waukesha County Business Alliance

Cc:

Bank Five Nine  
Building Advantage  
Commercial Association of REALTORS  
WisconsinConstruction Business Group  
Cushman & Wakefield | Boerke  
EmbedTek  
First Business Bank

Generac  
INPRO Corporation  
Ironworkers #8  
Marcus Corporation  
MLG Capital  
NAIOP - Wisconsin

North Central States Regional Council of  
Carpenters  
Operating Engineers Local #139  
ProHealth Care  
The Redmond Company  
Ruekert - Mielke

The Wisconsin Laborers' District Council  
ThriveED  
Transportation Development Association  
Wangard Partners  
Wisconsin Transportation Builders  
Association