

October 6, 2023



LAKE INTERCHANGE STUDY

EXPLORE I-794

Learn how engagement is helping to shape an urban freeway corridor in downtown Milwaukee

www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov



PROJECT TEAM



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WisDOT Project Manager



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Public Involvement Lead (HNTB)



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STUDY OVERVIEW

The Lake Interchange Study is evaluating alternatives to reconstruct the I-794 freeway corridor, generally from the Milwaukee River and Hoan Bridge.



- STUDY ACTIVITIES**
- Public involvement and outreach
 - Alternatives analysis
 - Environmental documentation (NEPA)
 - Preliminary design



BACKGROUND



Marquette Interchange (2006-2008)

- Lake Interchange removed from project to reduce costs

Hoan Bridge/I-794 (2013-2015)

- Hoan Bridge new deck and painting
- Overlay of Lake Interchange structures

Lakefront Gateway (2013-2015)

- Limited project scope
- Partnership with City/County

Lake Interchange Study (Present)

- Replace in kind as starting point

DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to address deteriorating infrastructure in a manner that improves safety and operations on I-794, generally from the Milwaukee River to the Hoan Bridge, while also striving to enhance community connectivity and compatibility with local plans and development

PROJECT NEEDS

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE
originally built in 1974-1975



**COMMUNITY
CONNECTIVITY**

**SYSTEM
LINKAGES**

**ROADWAY
DEFICIENCIES**

**BICYCLE and
PEDESTRIAN
SAFETY**

**TRAFFIC
SAFETY**



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION

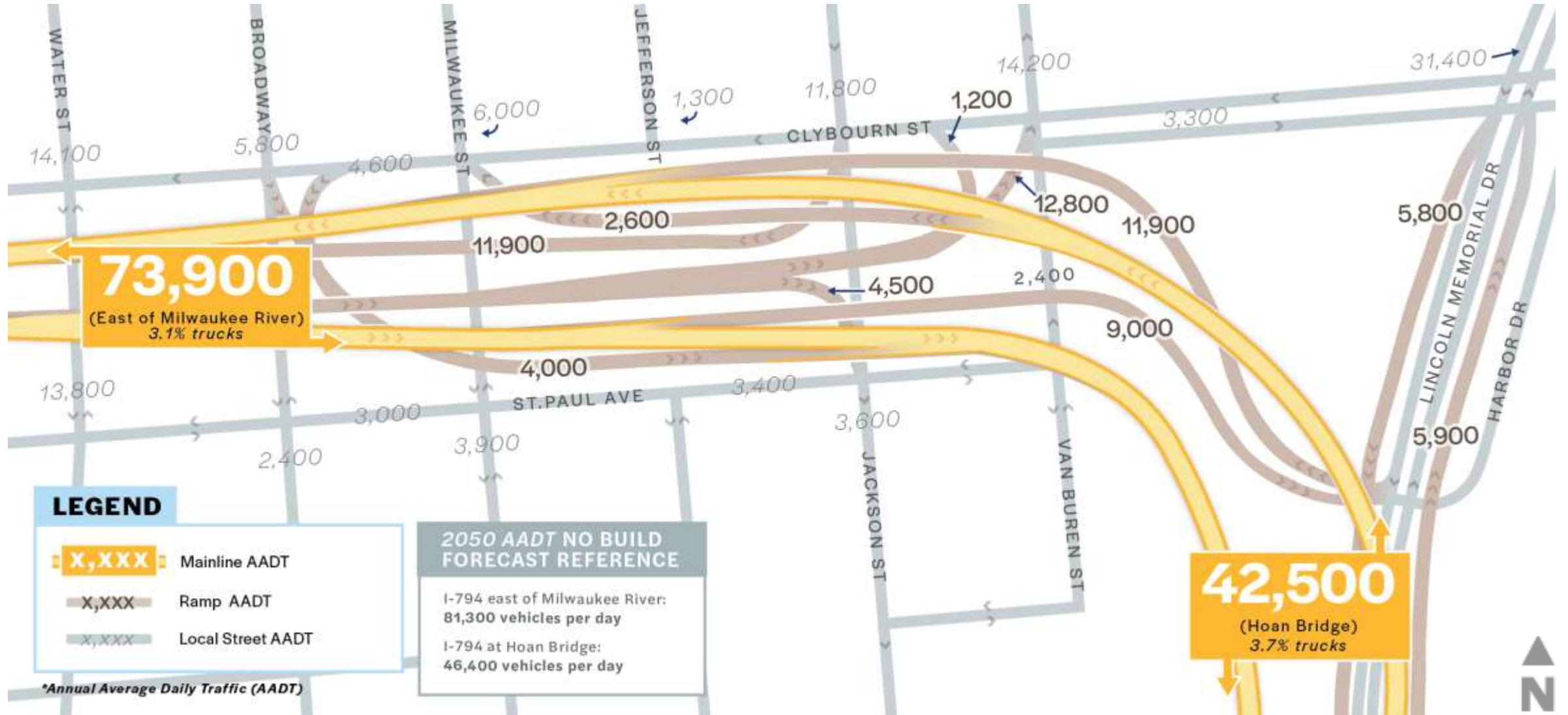


LEGEND

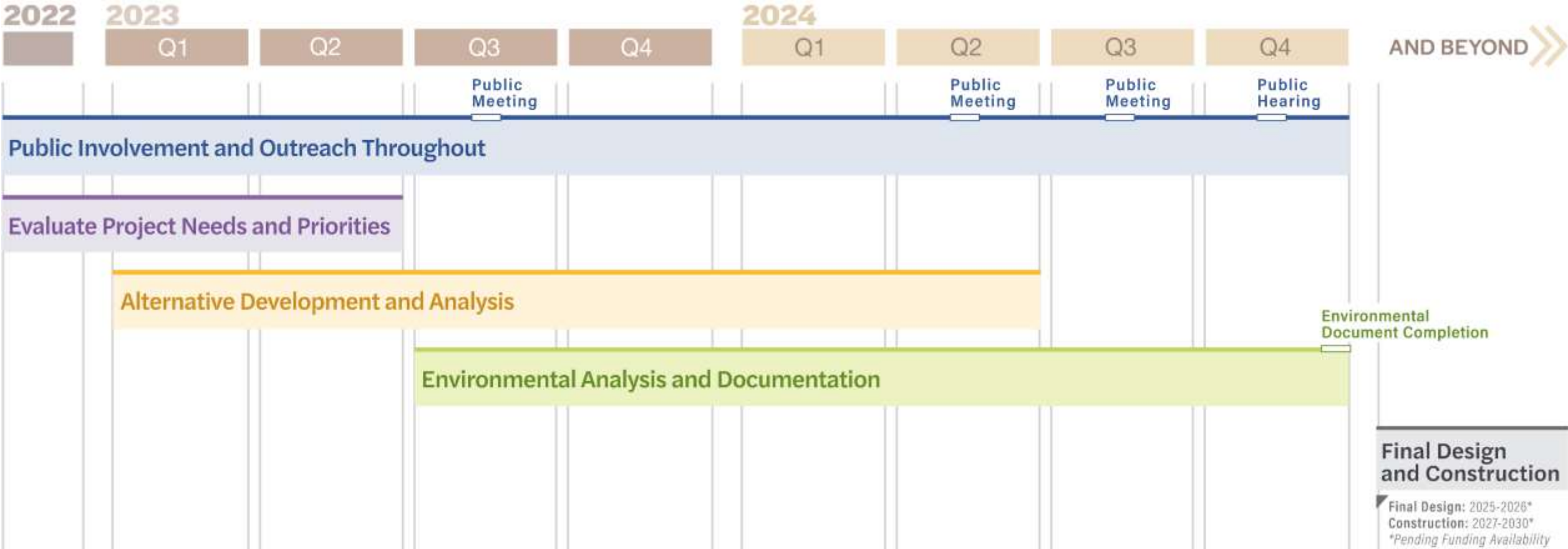
Existing On-Street Bike Lane	MCTS CONNECT Route (East-West Bus Rapid Transit)
Shared-Use Path	CONNECT 1 Station
Pedestrian Walkway	The Hop Streetcar Route
No Sidewalk	Hop Station
Milwaukee RiverWalk	Bikeshare Station
MCTS Bus Routes	Moveable Bridge

ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC 2022

Estimated daily through traffic at the Lake Interchange is 26,600 vehicles



ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE



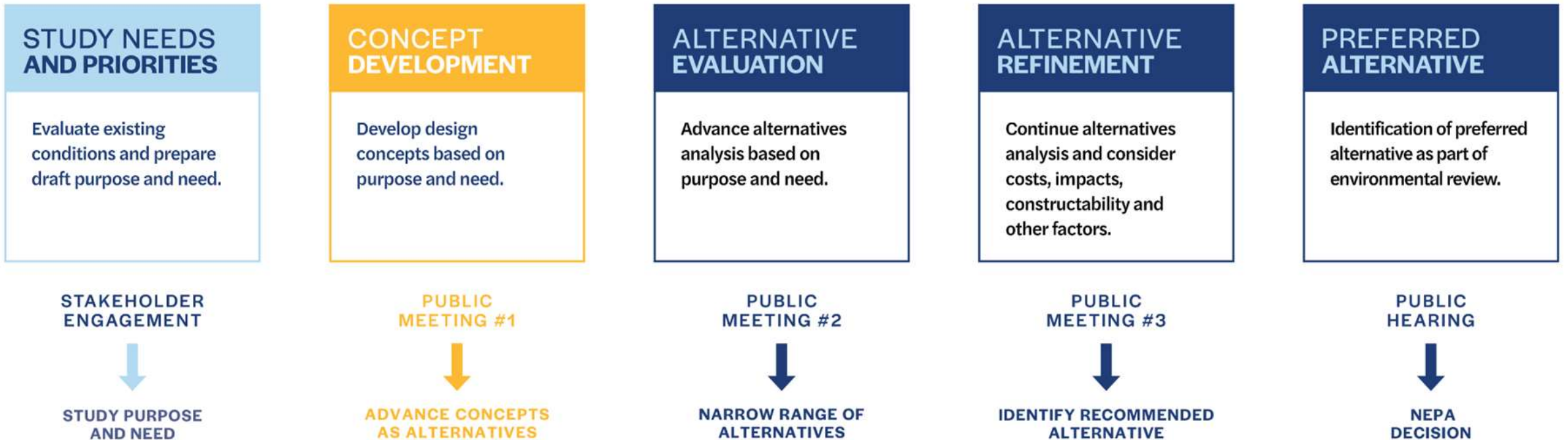
*Schedule subject to change

STUDY PROCESS

WE ARE HERE

START

COMPLETION



LISTEN FIRST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

HOW WE'VE CONNECTED

2,800+
PUBLIC COMMENTS
SUBMITTED
(AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023)

**ELECTED
OFFICIAL
BRIEFINGS
and LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COORDINATION
MEETINGS**



4
**ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS**
(STAKEHOLDERS
AND BUSINESSES)



30+
**STAKEHOLDER
MEETINGS**



2
**PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT
MEETINGS**



ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Sounding board on materials prior to presenting to larger public
- Gives feedback to WisDOT throughout the study process
- Provides guidance on engaging their neighborhoods, communities or constituents
- Shares information about the project with colleagues and/or constituents



Stakeholder Advisory Committee:

- City, County, Regional Agencies
- Neighborhood Associations
- Community Centers
- Nonprofits
- Tourism & Entertainment
- Educational institutions



Business Advisory Committee:

- Business Improvement Districts (BID)
- Large employers
- Multi-tenant office buildings
- Hospitality
- Chambers of Commerce

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

- Public Involvement Management Application
- Comment form, Subscription form, Event sign in, Survey dashboard
- E-Blasts
- 1,000+ public comments submitted
- 1,450 contacts in database
- 630 contacts self-subscribed

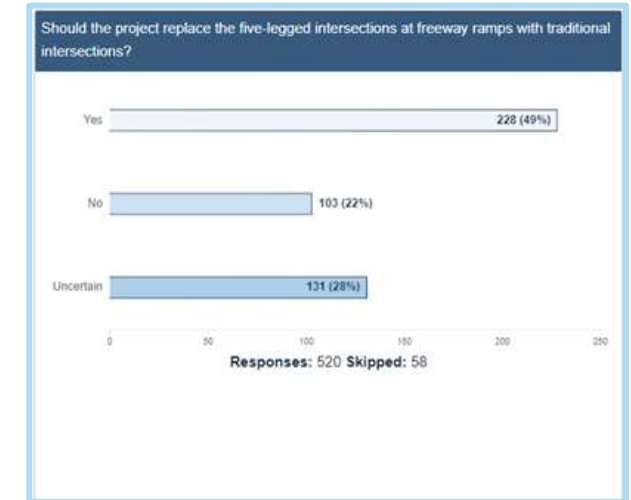
I-794 Lake Interchange Study
Comment Form
August 2023 Public Involvement Meeting

794

How do you typically use the Lake Interchange?
Please select all that apply:

- To access locations in the downtown, Historic Third Ward and lakefront
- To move through the area to other destinations on the regional freeway network
- On local streets underneath the freeway

Public meeting survey/comment



Survey dashboard

I-794 Lake Interchange
WisDOT is evaluating alternatives for the I-794 corridor in downtown Milwaukee.

1) Please enter your comment below: Required

Please do not place any personally identifiable information (name, phone, or email) within your comment.

2) Tell us about yourself and stay up to date with the project

Zip Code Required Last Name Required

CONTINUE →

Study comment form

WEBSITE ENGAGEMENT



- Dedicated project website
- First and best source of information
- Central hub for project communications
- Over 14,000 total views since launch, with more than 5,700 visits to the public meeting materials page



SCAN TO VIEW WEBSITE

The screenshot shows a website interface for the 794 Lake Interchange project. At the top, a red banner reads "August Public Meeting Materials Available Now". Below this is a navigation bar with the 794 logo and menu items: Home, About, Outreach, and Library. A large blue banner features the text "August 2023 Public Meeting Comment Form" and a yellow button that says "LEAVE US YOUR FEEDBACK". Below the banner is a section titled "Meeting Materials" with a link to "VIEW ALL DISPLAY BOARDS". A light blue bar highlights "STUDY OVERVIEW". Three preview cards are shown: "WELCOME AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS", "STUDY OVERVIEW", and "STUDY PROCESS".

Public meeting page for virtual/self-guided participation

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

August 1 and 2, 2023

- Two meeting locations
- 819 total attendees
- 1,700+ comment/survey forms submitted



CONCEPT GROUPS

Based on early engagement feedback, WisDOT developed initial design concepts for the I-794 Lake Interchange that fall into four groups:

NO BUILD

Bridges and ramps would not be replaced **AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE**

REPLACE IN KIND

RECONSTRUCT EXISTING STRUCTURE and match existing alignment to the extent possible

Maintain all **EXISTING ACCESS POINTS**

LIMITED LOCAL STREET and sidewalk improvements

FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT

RECONSTRUCT elevated freeway **WITHOUT CAPACITY EXPANSION**

IMPROVE DESIGN FEATURES to meet current standards and improve safety

CONSOLIDATE FREEWAY ACCESS RAMPS

IMPROVE LOCAL STREET CONNECTIVITY where feasible

Provide **COMPLETE STREET ACCOMMODATIONS** where feasible

FREEWAY REMOVAL

Remove the freeway and **UTILIZE THE AT-GRADE STREET NETWORK**



DOWNTOWN


THIRD WARD



LEGEND

-  Elevated Structure
-  Potential Surface Street Extension
-  Planned City Street Extension
-  Pedestrian Walkway

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE

-  Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 2.7

REPLACE IN KIND CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023

www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov



Maintain one-way on Clybourn Street

Maintain existing design at Clybourn Street and Lincoln Memorial Drive intersection

Westbound freeway design speed: 45 mph

Eastbound freeway design speed: 35 mph

FUTURE DOG EXERCISE AREA

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MARKET

333 N. WATER ST. TOWER

SUMMERFEST NORTH GATE

SUMMERFEST MID GATE

ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Vel R. Phillips Ave.

2nd St.

Plankinton Ave.

Water St.

Michigan St.

Clybourn St.

Van Buren St.

Cass St.

Lincoln Memorial Dr.

3rd St.

St. Paul Ave.

Plankinton Ave.

MILWAUKEE RIVER

Water St.

Buffalo St.

Broadway

Milwaukee St.

Jefferson St.

Jackson St.

Chicago St.

Menomonee St.

Corcoran St.



DOWNTOWN

THIRD WARD

LEGEND

-  Elevated Structure
-  Surface Streets
-  Potential Surface Street Extension
-  Planned City Street Extension
-  Pedestrian Walkway

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE	
	Land Available Not Meeting Minimum Development Requirements TOTAL ACRES: 1.1
	Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements TOTAL ACRES: 4.4
	Land Inside Lakebed Boundary TOTAL ACRES: 2.9

FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023

www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov





Vel R. Phillips Ave.

2nd St.

Plankinton Ave.

Water St.

Michigan St.

DOWNTOWN

Van Buren St.

Cass St.

Redesign Lincoln Memorial Drive and Clybourn Street intersection

Extend Cass Street connection to the Third Ward

Lincoln Memorial Dr.

Clybourn St.



3rd St.

FUTURE DOG EXERCISE AREA

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MARKET

Access to/from the west at Jackson Street and Van Buren Street

St. Paul Ave.

Plankinton Ave.

MILWAUKEE RIVER

Water St.

333 N. WATER ST. TOWER

Broadway

Milwaukee St.

Jefferson St.

Jackson St.

Access to/from the south at Lincoln Memorial Drive/St. Paul Avenue

SUMMERFEST NORTH GATE

Eastbound and westbound freeway improved design speed 55 mph

Buffalo St.

THIRD WARD

Chicago St.

ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER




SUMMERFEST MID GATE

Menomonee St.

Corcoran St.



LEGEND

-  Elevated Structure
-  Surface Streets
-  Potential Surface Street Extension
-  Planned City Street Extension
-  Pedestrian Walkway

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE

-  Land Available Not Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 1.5
-  Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements
TOTAL ACRES: 6.3
-  Land Inside Lakebed Boundary
TOTAL ACRES: 1.7

FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023





DOWNTOWN

THIRD WARD

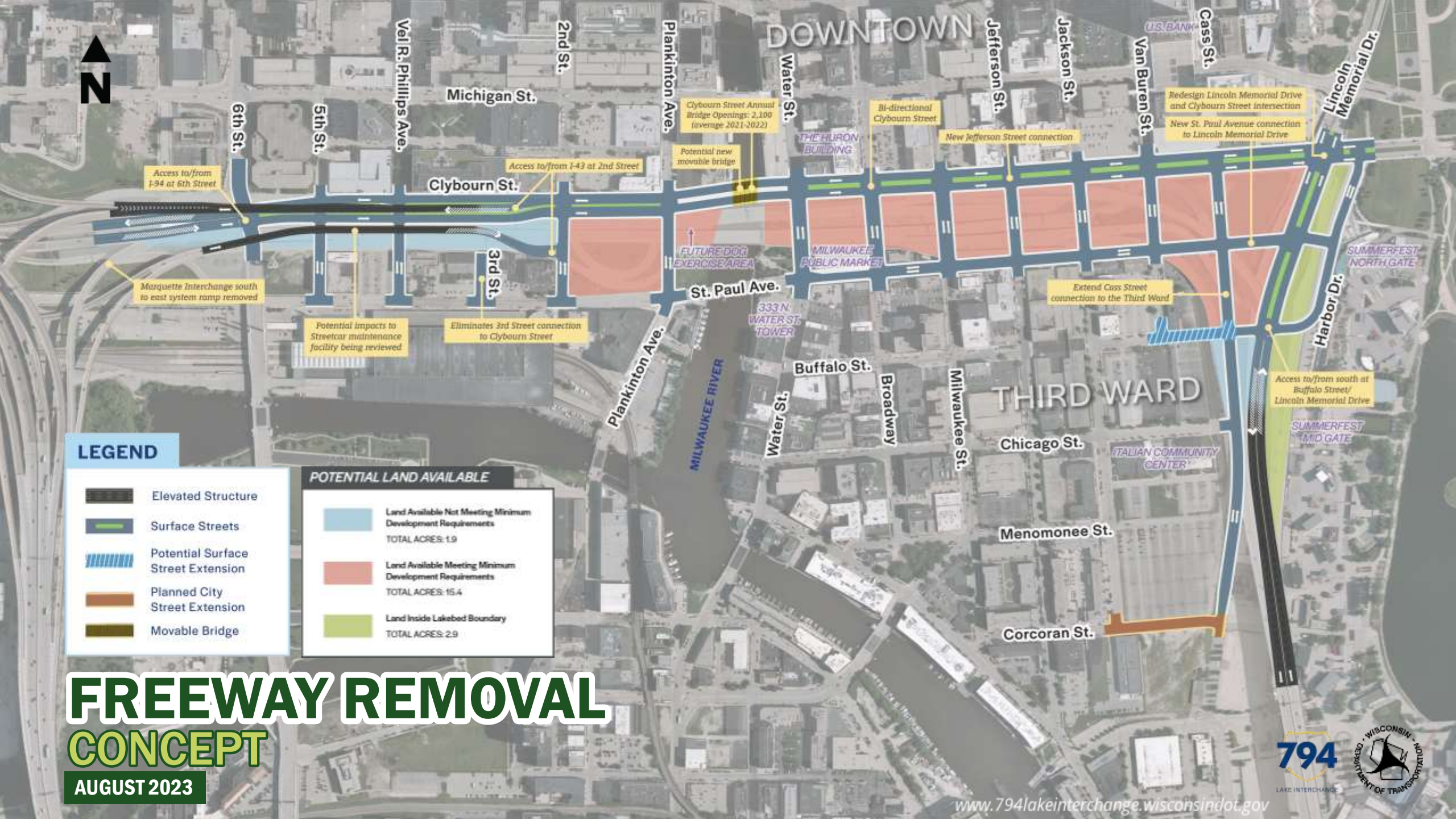
LEGEND

-  Elevated Structure
-  Surface Streets
-  Potential Surface Street Extension
-  Planned City Street Extension
-  Movable Bridge

POTENTIAL LAND AVAILABLE	
	Land Available Not Meeting Minimum Development Requirements TOTAL ACRES: 1.9
	Land Available Meeting Minimum Development Requirements TOTAL ACRES: 15.4
	Land Inside Lakebed Boundary TOTAL ACRES: 2.9

FREEWAY REMOVAL CONCEPT

AUGUST 2023



Access to/from I-94 at 6th Street

Marquette Interchange south to east system ramp removed

Potential impacts to Streetcar maintenance facility being reviewed

Eliminates 3rd Street connection to Clybourn Street

Access to/from I-43 at 2nd Street

Clybourn Street Annual Bridge Openings: 2,100 (average 2021-2022)

Potential new movable bridge

Bi-directional Clybourn Street

New Jefferson Street connection

Redesign Lincoln Memorial Drive and Clybourn Street intersection
New St. Paul Avenue connection to Lincoln Memorial Drive

Extend Cass Street connection to the Third Ward

Access to/from south at Buffalo Street/ Lincoln Memorial Drive

Plankinton Ave.

MILWAUKEE RIVER

Water St.

Buffalo St.

Broadway

Milwaukee St.

Chicago St.

Menomonee St.

Corcoran St.

Harbor Dr.

Lincoln Memorial Dr.

Van Buren St.

Jackson St.

Jefferson St.

Water St.

Plankinton Ave.

2nd St.

Michigan St.

Vel R. Phillips Ave.

6th St.

5th St.

3rd St.

St. Paul Ave.

333 N. WATER ST. TOWER

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MARKET

FUTURE DOG EXERCISE AREA

THE HURON BUILDING

SUMMERFEST NORTH GATE

SUMMERFEST MID GATE

ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

U.S. BANK

CONCEPTUAL 3-D RENDERINGS

LAKE INTERCHANGE LOOKING EAST



Above: Aerial photograph of the existing I-794 Lake Interchange study area (non-rendered)

3-D CONCEPT RENDERINGS



Right:

Conceptual 3-D renderings of the Lake Interchange (view looking east)

These 3-D renderings are conceptual. Local road cross sections and intersection configurations have not been determined. These project elements will be established following completion of detailed traffic analysis.

NEXT STEPS

- Review public comments
- Identify concepts to advance as alternatives
- Advance traffic analysis of alternatives and refine design
- Hold second Public Involvement Meeting (2024)

QUESTIONS