

**GOOD MORNING. I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE  
TO MAKE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. AND I'VE  
ENLISTED THE HELP OF SOME OF PAYNE AND  
DOLAN'S WORKERS TO HELP ME OUT.**

**( -- point to group of construction workers -- who  
will hold up signs proclaiming "We're done  
early!")**

**ISN'T THAT GREAT NEWS, LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN! TODAY WE'RE ANNOUNCING  
THAT AS OF THIS SATURDAY, REPAIRS ON THE  
EAST-WEST CORRIDOR WILL BE COMPLETE  
AND ALL LANES OF TRAFFIC WILL BE OPEN TO  
TRAFFIC BY THE END OF THE DAY.**

**THERE WILL BE OCCASIONAL NIGHTTIME  
CLOSURES FOR SPOT WORK, BUT MOST  
MOTORISTS WON'T EVEN BE AWARE IT'S  
GOING ON.**

**THIS REALLY IS GREAT NEWS...TO TRUCKERS,  
TOURISTS, BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN,  
COMMUTERS, UP TO 175,000 DRIVERS WHO  
USE THE I-94 EAST-WEST CORRIDOR EVERY  
DAY. THIS FREEWAY IS NOW IN THE BEST  
SHAPE IT'S BEEN IN SINCE WISCONSIN'S  
FIRST FREEWAY SEGMENT WAS OPENED IN  
WAUKESHA COUNTY IN 1958 – DURING THE  
TERM OF ANOTHER REPUBLICAN  
GOVERNOR...VERNON THOMPSON.**

**OVER THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS MUCH OF THE  
REST OF THE FREEWAY IN SOUTHEASTERN  
WISCONSIN WAS OPENED, WITH THE  
MARQUETTE INTERCHANGE FINALLY OPENING  
IN AUGUST, 1966, DURING WARREN KNOWLES'  
TERM.**

**EVERYTHING CONSIDERED, THIS REPAIR  
PROJECT HAS BEEN AN OVERWHELMING  
SUCCESS...IN TERMS OF SAFETY...QUALITY  
WORK...MEETING OR EXCEEDING  
DEADLINES...AND IN MAKING SURE THAT THE  
GREATER MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY WAS KEPT  
OPEN AND MOBILE, WITH THE ECONOMY  
THRIVING.**

**LAST YEAR'S WESTBOUND RESURFACING  
FINISHED ONE MONTH AHEAD OF SCHEDULE...IN  
TIME, YOU MIGHT REMEMBER, FOR THE STATE  
FAIR.**

**THIS YEAR, WE BEAT THE DEADLINES AGAIN,  
WITH DAYTIME WORK COMPLETED BY JUNE 8TH  
OVER ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE EASTBOUND  
PROJECT.**

**NOW, WE'RE HERE TO CELEBRATE  
COMPLETION OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT...ON  
TIME AND ON BUDGET, TWO WEEKS AHEAD OF  
SCHEDULE.**

**THERE'S MORE GOOD NEWS. WE'RE ALSO  
GOING TO COMPLETE THE NORTH-SOUTH  
STADIUM FREEWAY PROJECT AHEAD OF  
SCHEDULE.**

**WE HAD TO RECONSTRUCT AND REALIGN THE  
STADIUM FREEWAY TO MAKE WAY FOR MILLER  
PARK. INITIALLY, WE SAID THE STADIUM  
FREEWAY WOULD BE CLOSED FOR TWO FULL  
CONSTRUCTION SEASONS, MEANING UNTIL  
NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR.**

**I'M HAPPY TO TELL YOU THAT THE NORTH-SOUTH FREEWAY IS SCHEDULED TO BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC BY AROUND AUGUST 3...ABOUT THREE MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.**

**WE'RE DELIVERING THE NORTH-SOUTH STADIUM FREEWAY PROJECT ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET. AND IN THE PROCESS, WE'VE KEPT OUR COMMITMENT TO MINORITY CONTRACTOR INVOLVEMENT...25% IN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION.**

**THERE ARE MANY, MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN RIGHTFULLY SHARE CREDIT FOR THESE SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS. IT TOOK A LOT OF HARD EFFORT...THE KIND OF WORK ETHIC FOR WHICH WISCONSIN IS FAMOUS...AND A LOT OF COOPERATION AND PARTNERING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.**

**I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK THE PRIME CONTRACTORS...PAYNE AND DOLAN AND ZENITH TECH, ALONG WITH THE MANY SUBCONTRACTORS AND HUNDREDS OF WORKERS, FOR THEIR WORK ON THE EAST-WEST. THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS PUT IN LONG, HARD HOURS, OFTEN 12 HOURS A DAY, SIX OR SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, INCLUDING EASTER SUNDAY AND MOTHERS' DAY.**

**THESE WORKERS PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE EACH TIME THEY REPORTED FOR THEIR WORK SHIFTS. WE HAD ONE HORRIBLE TRAGEDY...AND LET'S PAUSE BRIEFLY TO REMEMBER PETER MESSERLIE (Messer-lee), THE YOUNG CONSTRUCTION WORKER KILLED BY AN IMPAIRED DRIVER WHO WAS TRAVELING IN A RESTRICTED LANE.**

**(Pause)**

**CERTAINLY, ONE FATALITY IS ONE TOO MANY. BUT IF WE CAN LOOK BEYOND THIS TRAGEDY, THE WORKERS AND THE MOTORING PUBLIC HAD AN OUTSTANDING SAFETY RECORD. CONSTRUCTION WORKERS OFTEN ARE ONLY A FOOT OR LESS REMOVED FROM LIVE TRAFFIC, TRAVELING AT 50 OR 55 MILES PER HOUR IN THE ADJACENT LANE, SEPARATED ONLY BY A FEW ORANGE BARRELS.**

**THOSE WHO USE THIS SECTION OF FREEWAY  
DESERVE SPECIAL THANKS...FOR BEING  
SAFETY CONSCIOUS, FOR OBSERVING SPEED  
LIMITS, AND FOR AN IMPRESSIVE SHOW OF  
CIVIC COOPERATION BY WILLINGNESS TO PUT  
UP WITH PERSONAL SACRIFICE AND  
INCONVENIENCE.**

**THOUSANDS OF FREEWAY USERS MADE THIS  
PROJECT WORK BY USING TRANSPORTATION  
ALTERNATIVES. PEOPLE RODE THE BUS IN  
IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF  
UP TO UP TO 190 HOURS OF STATE SUBSIDIZED  
EXTRA BUS SERVICE EACH DAY.**

**WISCONSIN COACH LINES REPORTS RIDERSHIP  
UP AS MUCH AS 40%. FIVE HUNDRED  
ADDITIONAL RIDERS ON SELECTED MILWAUKEE  
COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM ROUTES.  
WAUKESHA METRO TRANSIT, UP MORE THAN  
5% ON ITS ROUTE TO BROOKFIELD SQUARE.**

**THOUSANDS OF OTHERS USED THE AMTRAK  
HIAWATHA EXTENSION, SET UP SPECIFICALLY  
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FREEWAY DRIVING  
THIS YEAR. MANY OTHER PEOPLE USED  
ALTERNATE ROUTES – TELECOMMUTED –  
CARPOOLED – OR LEFT EARLIER FOR THEIR  
DESTINATIONS.**

**WHAT A MAGNIFICENT SHOW OF PUBLIC SPIRIT  
BY OUR CITIZENS. MORE THAN 40% OF DAILY  
COMMUTERS GOT OFF THE FREEWAY. AND  
WITH VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS, CONGESTION ON  
SURFACE STREETS HAS BEEN ENDURABLE.**

**WE'VE ALSO KEPT MILWAUKEE MOBILE, AND  
THE ECONOMY HUMMING, DESPITE  
CONSTRUCTION. BUSINESS PEOPLE FROM  
DOWNTOWN TO THE SUBURBS TELL US THAT  
ROAD CONSTRUCTION HASN'T IMPAIRED  
COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, TRUCKING OR  
TOURISM.**

**MILWAUKEE BREWERS' ATTENDANCE: UP  
SUBSTANTIALY BOTH THIS YEAR AND LAST  
YEAR.**

**SUMMERFEST SET AN ALL-TIME ATTENDANCE  
RECORD LAST YEAR, AND RECENTLY FINISHED  
ANOTHER OUTSTANDING RUN.**

**THE HARLEY REUNION WAS A MAGNIFICENT  
SUCCESS...WITH MORE THAN 125,000 VISITORS  
LAST MONTH PUMPING AN ADDITIONAL \$120  
MILLION INTO THE AREA ECONOMY.**

**AND COMING UP, WE EXPECT ANOTHER HIGHLY  
SUCCESSFUL STATE FAIR AND A VISIT FROM  
GOVERNORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR THE  
NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE.**

**BECAUSE OF CAREFUL PLANNING, THE  
ECONOMY CONTINUED TO THRIVE, THE  
COMMUNITY STAYED OPEN AND MOBILE, AND  
THE PROJECT STILL FINISHED AHEAD OF  
SCHEDULE.**

**WE USED INNOVATION ON THIS PROJECT...LIKE  
A NEW, HIGH-TECH ASPHALT, CALLED  
"SUPERPAVE," DESIGNED TO KEEP THIS MORE  
THAN 35-YEAR-OLD FREEWAY TOGETHER FOR  
ANOTHER 10 YEARS.**



**BUT EVENTUALLY, WE KNOW THAT THE ENTIRE  
FREEWAY SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO BE REBUILT.  
THE MILWAUKEE AREA HAS A LOT OF  
TRANSPORTATION NEEDS...AND WE KNOW  
THAT A SOUND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS  
VITAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB  
CREATION.**

**IN FACT, OVER THE LAST FOUR FISCAL YEARS,  
THE STATE HAS SPENT \$227.4 MILLION FOR  
HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN MILWAUKEE  
COUNTY ON THE STATE AND LOCAL HIGHWAY  
SYSTEMS. IN WAUKESHA COUNTY, THE  
CORRESPONDING FIGURE WE'VE SPENT IS \$89.6  
MILLION.**

**THESE INVESTMENTS SHOW OUR COMMITMENT  
TO MILWAUKEE AND ALL OF SOUTHEASTERN  
WISCONSIN.**

**NEXT YEAR, MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS ARE  
SCHEDULED AGAIN...WITH RESURFACING OF I-94  
FROM THE MITCHELL INTERCHANGE TO THE  
RACINE COUNTY LINE...PLUS MAJOR BRIDGE  
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HALE INTERCHANGE.  
AFTER THAT WILL COME IMPROVEMENTS TO US  
45...AND SHORTLY AFTER THE YEAR 2000, WE'LL  
HAVE TO REBUILD THE MARQUETTE  
INTERCHANGE.**

**THESE BIG PROJECTS WILL BE BIG  
CHALLENGES ...JUST LIKE THE I-94  
RESURFACING. BUT WE HAVE PROVEN THAT  
WE'RE UP TO HANDLING BIG CHALLENGES.**

**I CONGRATULATE YOU AND THANK YOU ALL  
FOR A JOB VERY WELL DONE!**

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2:  
Gubernatorial Speeches

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