
Governor's Remarks at the
Highway 151 Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
June 11, 1992

GOOD AFTERNOON.

AND THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU ...
IN THIS EXCITING CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS.

I ENJOY TAKING PART IN EVENTS LIKE THIS THAT ARE HAPPENING
EVERY YEAR IN WISCONSIN ... EVENTS THAT CAN BE CALLED
"THOMPSON TRADITIONS."

ONE TRADITION IS TO SHARE THE CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT NEWS
ABOUT WISCONSIN'S ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP.

EVERY YEAR, WE HEAR THAT MORE PEOPLE ARE WORKING ... MORE
COMPANIES ARE GROWING IN OUR STATE.

IN FACT, THE GOOD NEWS KEEPS GETTING EVEN BETTER.

WISCONSIN'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE NOW STANDS AT 4.4 PERCENT ...
A 19-MONTH LOW.

IT HAS REMAINED WELL BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR OVER
FOUR YEARS.

AND IN 1992 ... 94 PERCENT OF ALL WISCONSIN COMPANIES EXPECT
STEADY OR GROWING EMPLOYMENT ...

A SIGN OF OUR CONTINUED ECONOMIC STRENGTH.

OUR SECOND TRADITION IS TO TAKE STATE GOVERNMENT OUT OF
MADISON. WE'VE BEEN TO MOST PARTS OF THE STATE ... AND THIS
JULY, WE WILL VISIT THE LAKE WINNEBAGO AREA JUST TO YOUR
NORTH.

AND OUR THIRD ANNUAL THOMPSON TRADITION IS RIBBON
CUTTINGS FOR EXPANSIONS OF HIGHWAY 151 ... AND THAT IS WHAT
BRINGS US HERE TODAY.

FROM DAY ONE, HIGHWAY 151 HAS BEEN A TOP PRIORITY FOR MY ADMINISTRATION.

WE HEARD YOUR CALL FOR A SAFER, MORE EFFICIENT HIGHWAY THAT WOULD CARRY TRAFFIC FROM THE FOX CITIES TO IOWA AND POINTS WEST.

AND WE KNOW THAT FOR BUSINESSES ALONG THIS CORRIDOR, A 4-LANE HIGHWAY WOULD BE KEY TO COMPETING IN A TOUGHER, MORE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

SO WE DECIDED THAT THIS ROUTE COULD NO LONGER WAIT FOR PROGRESS.

AND AS PARTNERS, WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS JOINING TOGETHER ... WE WENT TO WORK.

WE MADE HIGHWAY 151 A CENTERPIECE OF OUR CORRIDORS 2020 PROGRAM, UNVEILED IN 1988.

SINCE THEN, I'VE VISITED COLUMBUS AND SUN PRAIRIE ... VERONA AND MOUNT HOREB ... TO SEE THIS CRITICAL EXPANSION TAKE SHAPE.

AND TODAY, WE'LL BREAK GROUND FOR THE 7-MILE HIGHWAY 151 EXPRESSWAY FROM BEAVER DAM TO COLUMBUS ... BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS TO YOU.

BY THE END OF 1993, THE TWO NEW LANES FROM HIGHWAY 73 TO COUNTY TRUNK "D" WILL BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC ...

PROVIDING YOU WITH AN EFFICIENT 4-LANE CONNECTION ALL THE WAY TO MADISON AND POINTS SOUTH AND WEST.

THIS IS AN \$8 MILLION PROJECT ... BUT WELL WORTH IT.

IT WILL HELP REDUCE FATAL CRASHES ... WHICH HAVE CLAIMED TOO MANY PRECIOUS LIVES BECAUSE OF LIMITED PASSING OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THIS ROAD.

AND IT WILL GIVE YOUR REGION MORE EFFICIENT ACCESS TO STATE AND NATIONAL MARKETS ... AS YOUR ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW AND PROSPER.

TOGETHER, WITH MANY OF YOU PLAYING A KEY ROLE ... WE'RE USHERING IN A NEW ERA FOR THIS REGION.

WITH YOUR IMPROVED LINKS TO THE NATION, MORE PEOPLE WILL NOW ENJOY QUALITY FARM AND MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS FROM BEAVER DAM AND COLUMBUS ...

CARRYING THE LABEL: "SOMETHING SPECIAL FROM WISCONSIN."

THAT MEANS GOOD JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE ... AND GOOD PRODUCTS FOR OUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

AS TODAY PROVES, OUR HIGHWAY 151 EXPANSION IS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

I CONGRATULATE AND APPLAUD EACH ONE OF YOU HERE TODAY -- LEGISLATORS ... LOCAL OFFICIALS ... BUSINESS LEADERS ... AND CITIZENS.

YOU HAVE CONTINUALLY SERVED AS OUR CRITICAL PARTNERS ... WORKING WITH US TO MAKE THIS NEEDED PROJECT A REALITY.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR CONTRACTOR -- MASHUDA CONSTRUCTION OF MADISON --

AND OUR DESIGN ENGINEER -- AYRES AND ASSOCIATES OF MADISON -- AS THEY PREPARE TO DELIVER AN OUTSTANDING PRODUCT.

AND NOW, LET US BREAK GROUND AND OPEN AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER OF PROGRESS AND GROWTH FOR THIS AREA.

THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.