

Opening of Lake Parkway in Milwaukee; September 29, 1999

**THANK YOU, LES (FAFARD, fae-fard, WAUKESHA DOT DISTRICT DIRECTOR), VERY MUCH FOR THAT INTRODUCTION.**

**GOOD AFTERNOON (MILWAUKEE) COUNTY EXECUTIVE ( F. THOMAS AMENT), STATE SENATOR (RICHARD) GROBSCHMIDT, (CITY OF ST. FRANCIS) MAYOR MILTON VRETENAR (vr-et-nar), (CITY OF CUDAHY) MAYOR RAYMOND GLOWACKI (glow-aky), LEGISLATORS, LOCAL OFFICIALS AND FRIENDS ...**

**I'M DELIGHTED TO JOIN YOU TODAY FOR A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION ... THE GRAND OPENING OF A BRAND NEW ROADWAY...THE LAKE PARKWAY.**

Opening of Lake Parkway in Milwaukee; September 29, 1999

***(((YOU KNOW, THIS MORNING OVER A BREAKFAST OF EGGS AND BACON, I WAS THINKING ABOUT A WAY TO DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT.***

***THEN IT DAWNED ON ME. IN A BACON AND EGGS BREAKFAST, THE CHICKEN PARTICIPATES... BUT THE PIG IS COMMITTED)))***

**WELL, I AM COMMITTED TO THE STRENGTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WHICH IS WHY I AM HERE TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE LAKE PARKWAY.**

**THE LAKE PARKWAY WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE ... FROM COMMUTERS TO TRUCKERS TO BUSINESSPEOPLE TO NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS.**

Opening of Lake Parkway in Milwaukee; September 29, 1999

**THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT WILL PAY HUGE AND IMMEDIATE DIVIDENDS IN TRAFFIC SAFETY, TRAVEL TIME, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FROM THE SOUTHERN TIP OF DOWNTOWN THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH LAKESHORE NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES.**

**THERE'S A SPECIAL BONUS AS WELL. LAST YEAR, WE FINISHED A MAJOR TWO-YEAR RESURFACING JOB ON I-94 FROM WAUKESHA COUNTY TO DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE. I WAS DELIGHTED TO COME TO MILWAUKEE AT THAT TIME TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WERE GETTING THAT JOB DONE TWO WEEKS EARLY.**

**WELL, WE DID EVEN BETTER THIS TIME. THE LAKE PARKWAY IS BEING OPENED TO TRAFFIC TWO MONTHS EARLY!**

Opening of Lake Parkway in Milwaukee; September 29, 1999

**ALL I CAN SAY IS THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTORS FOR A JOB WELL DONE: ARBOR GREEN, DARWIN ELECTRONIC, HOFFMAN CONSTRUCTION, JAMES CAPE & SONS, KENNY CONSTRUCTION, LUNDA CONSTRUCTION, MEWS COMPANY, SANFELIPPO (san-phillip-o) ENVIRONMENTAL, TRIAD TRUCKING, PHEIFER BROTHERS, U.S. PIPE AND ZENITH TECH.**

**ANNOUNCING GOOD NEWS LIKE THIS IS BECOMING A HABIT, AND IT'S A REFLECTION OF HOW IMPORTANT I FEEL MILWAUKEE COUNTY IS TO THE OVERALL WELL- BEING OF OUR WISCONSIN ECONOMY.**

**OVER THE LAST FOUR FISCAL YEARS ALONE, WISCONSIN HAS (pause) COMMITTED (pause) \$378 MILLION FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY.**

**\$130 MILLION OF THAT WENT FOR THIS NEW ROADWAY THAT IS THE FULFILLMENT OF A VISION ... A VISION SHARED BY CITIZENS FROM BAY VIEW TO CUDAHY AND SOUTH MILWAUKEE. THEY SAW A NEED FOR A MAJOR NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORTATION CONNECTOR IN EASTERN MILWAUKEE COUNTY ... ESPECIALLY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE HOAN (hone) BRIDGE IN 1977.**

**THE HOAN BRIDGE HAS CONNECTED ONLY WITH RESIDENTIAL STREETS IN BAY VIEW, WHICH WERE NEVER DESIGNED NOR INTENDED TO CARRY HEAVY TRAFFIC. THE ABSENCE OF A NORTH-SOUTH ARTERIAL CONNECTOR HAS COST THE AREA DEARLY IN MORE TRAFFIC JAMS, LESS SAFETY AND INCREASED NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY AND NIGHT.**

**SO THE QUESTION BECAME, “WHAT KIND OF TRANSPORTATION CONNECTOR WAS NEEDED?” TO ANSWER THAT, A 28-MEMBER HOAN BRIDGE SOUTH TASK FORCE WAS FORMED IN 1986.**

**THE TASK FORCE WAS CHARGED WITH RECOMMENDING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO SOLVE THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM, IMPROVE ACCESS TO GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND DEVELOP BUSINESS ACCESS FOR BAY VIEW, ST. FRANCIS, CUDAHY AND OTHER SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITIES.**

**AT THE SAME TIME, THE TASK FORCE WAS ASKED TO PRESERVE COMMUNITY VALUES.**

**IT WASN'T AN EASY ROW TO HOE, BUT A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY LEADERS PLAYED ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ROLES IN KEEPING THE PROCESS MOVING FORWARD, AND PROVIDING CLEAR DIRECTION WHEN THE TASK FORCE HAS LOST ITS WAY.**

- **FORMER CUDAHY MAYOR LAWRENCE KELLY.**
- **KURT BAUER, THEN HEAD OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION.**
- **HAROUT SANASARIAN (ha-root sana-sair-ian), WHO WAS VICE CHAIR OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD AND CHAIR OF THE HOAN BRIDGE.**
- **FORMER STATE TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY RONALD FIELDLER.**
- **THE LATE COUNTY SUPERVISOR DAN CUPERTINO (q-per-tino).**

Opening of Lake Parkway in Milwaukee; September 29, 1999

- **THE LATE STATE SENATOR JOHN PLEWA.**
- **FORMER D-O-T DISTRICT DIRECTOR HARVEY SHEBESTA (she-best-a)**
- **FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROSEMARY POTTER.**
- **AND OF COURSE MILTON VRETENAR AND RICHARD GROBSCHMIDT, WHO ARE HERE WITH US TODAY.**

**THE END RESULT IS WHAT HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER.**

**A ROADWAY WITH TASTEFULNESS TO PRESERVE THE SPECIAL FLAVOR AND CHARACTER OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS WHILE DISCOURAGING GRAFFITI.**

**A SAFE, FOUR-LANE DIVIDED ROAD WITH NOISE BARRIERS THAT WILL BE LANDSCAPED WITH SOD, EVERGREENS, TREES AND SHRUBS SO THE 'PARK' IN 'PARKWAY' WILL BE EMPHASIZED.**

**AS WE PREPARE TO CUT THE RIBBON ON THIS HISTORIC EVENT, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH THE WORDS OF HENRY FORD, WHO SAID, "COMING TOGETHER IS THE BEGINNING... KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS... WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS."**

**REMEMBER, IF EVERYONE IS MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER, SUCCESS WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.**

**AS OUR STATE PREPARES TO ENTER THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY, I AM CONFIDANT THAT WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE TO BOOM BECAUSE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO TEAMWORK.**

**BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE TURNED A FALTERING ECONOMY AROUND, CREATED A**

Opening of Lake Parkway in Milwaukee; September 29, 1999

**RECORD NUMBER OF NEW JOBS AND DROVE  
OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DOWN TO  
RECORD LOWS. AND I'M CONFIDANT THAT WE  
CAN STRENGTHEN THE PARTNERSHIP  
BETWEEN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT IN  
PREPARING PEOPLE FOR THE JOBS OF THE  
FUTURE.**

**IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU FOR THIS  
NEXT STEP IN MAKING A NEW, SAFE, JOB  
CREATING LAKE PARKWAY A REALITY.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU  
TODAY. HAVE A GREAT WISCONSIN DAY!**