

Stop the I-94 Expansion Project

Gov. Evers plans to include the I-94 expansion project between the Marquette and Zoo Interchanges in Milwaukee. Due to serious environmental and racial justice concerns about this a project, not to mention its steep price tag and research to show that expansions do not reduce congestion, we must make sure that this project is halted (again)!

The I-94 expansion project was *and still is* a bad idea for so many reasons:

1. **It would worsen the climate crisis.** The transportation sector is the largest contributor to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in the US. Expanding highway infrastructure that caters to single passenger traffic [will increase carbon emissions](#). This project is in direct conflict with the expressed goals of the Governor's Climate Task Force. Here's the bottom line: climate-friendly governors do not expand highways.
2. **It would negatively impact public health.** Because highway expansion almost always increases the number of cars on the road, air pollution increases with these projects. [Traffic pollution causes asthma, cardiovascular disease and dementia](#). Entertaining the idea of expanding a highway during a pandemic is inexcusable.
3. **It would exacerbate racial injustice.** Wisconsin's decades-long focus on highway transportation instead of public transit investments has worsened the region's racial and economic segregation. Not only are highways a physical barrier, but they also increase air pollution in the surrounding communities - which are Communities of Color. [In 2014](#), the federal government found that the Zoo Interchange caused "irreparable harm," to minority communities. This project on the same corridor is no different. Members of low-income and minority communities often [lack reliable transportation options](#). Yet, this project is being reconsidered even at a time of heightened awareness about structural racism in Wisconsin.
4. **It would be costly.** Spending an estimated \$1 billion on this project at the expense of fixing our local roads and repairing our existing road and transit infrastructure is a big price to pay for a mere 3.5 miles of interstate. Meanwhile, Wisconsin's [public transportation system](#) and [local road system](#) are languishing due to lack of investment.
5. **It would *not* fix congestion** as proponents of the project suggest; in fact - [highway expansions often make congestion worse](#) shortly after construction is complete! This is because of induced demand -- essentially "if you build it, they will come." Why should a damaging project move forward to make the very thing proponents of the project want to solve even worse?

It is abundantly clear: expanding I-94 during a time of economic crisis, public health concern, and increased awareness over racial disparities is irresponsible and harmful.