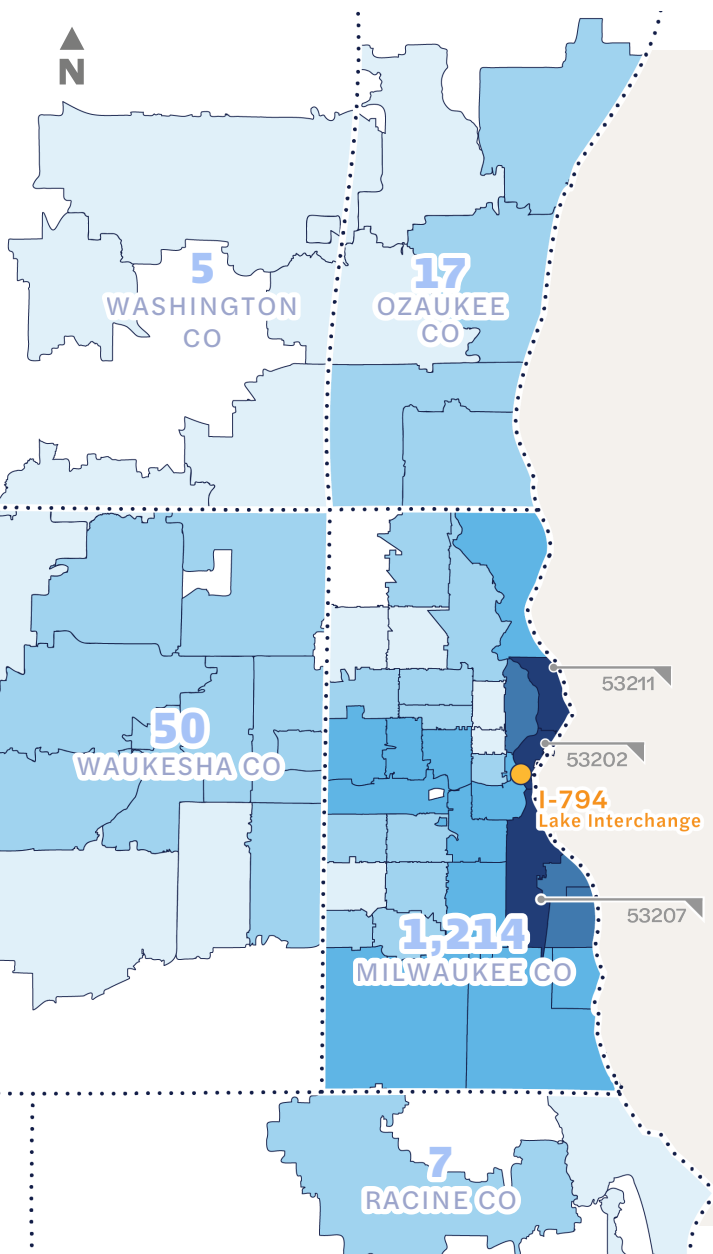




The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) hosted the first set of open house public involvement meetings for the I-794 Lake Interchange Study on August 1 and 2, 2023. The meetings were an opportunity for the public to understand the study process, learn about the project's draft purpose and need, and provide input on preliminary design concepts.

This summary provides an overview of the feedback received and highlights your input!



WHO EXPLORED I-794

Across the **two** in-person meetings and the **30-day** comment period:

800+ attendees participated at meetings

14,100 website views

1,781 comment forms were submitted in person and online from residents across Milwaukee County, the region and beyond

1,214 Responses within Milwaukee County

More than half came from ZIP Codes: **53207**, **53202**, and **53211**

137 Responses beyond Milwaukee County

430 Responses without a ZIP Code

COMMENT FORM RESPONSES BY ZIP CODE



WHAT WE HEARD ON THE CONCEPTS

There was a range of support expressed across all three design concept groups: Replace In Kind, Freeway Improvement and Freeway Removal. The following list summarizes what we heard from the public comments regarding the initial design concepts. This is a high-level summary of the feedback received. Information provided is representative of those who submitted comments.

To view the design concepts, visit the I-794 website at:
794lakeinterchange.wisconsindot.gov/2023-aug-public-information-meeting#designConcepts

What people said about the **REPLACE IN KIND CONCEPT**

- + Maintains all existing access points
- + Perceived as the most cost-effective freeway concept
- + Maintains existing design/configuration
- + Least impactful to recently invested WisDOT projects

- Missed opportunity to correct design deficiencies, reconnect the local street grid and open up land for potential development
- Ongoing maintenance of bridge structures

What people said about the **FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT CONCEPTS**

- + Maintains a regional connection via elevated freeway
- + Corrects design deficiencies
- + Provides a reduced footprint with access consolidation
- + Regional, through and truck traffic to remain off the local streets
- + Opens up some potential land for development
- + Improves the local street grid with street extensions and bi-directional Clybourn Street

- Does not open up enough land for potential development
- Maintains an infrastructure barrier for neighborhood connectivity between downtown and Historic Third Ward
- Concerns about design concepts that impact recently built infrastructure due to the extended construction limits

What people said about the **FREEWAY REMOVAL CONCEPTS**

- + Maximizes the potential land development opportunity
- + Supports economic growth
- + Reconnects the local street grid
- + Maximizes neighborhood connectivity between downtown and Historic Third Ward
- + Eliminates potential future bridge maintenance costs

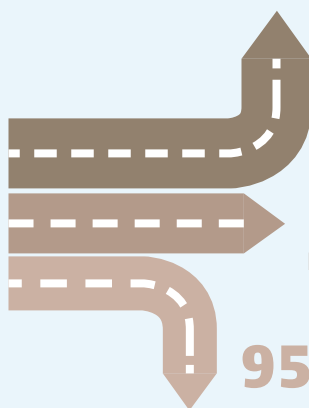
- Disconnects the regional freeway system linkage
- Increases traffic congestion, truck and freight on local streets and neighborhoods
- Poses traffic conflicts with the movable bridge
- Concerns about pedestrian and bicyclist safety across Clybourn Street due to increased traffic
- Adds more travel time for commuters





HOW DO YOU USE THE LAKE INTERCHANGE?

Respondents were given three options and asked to select any that applied to their typical usage of the Lake Interchange.



1,234 RESPONSES

To access locations in downtown, Historic Third Ward and Lakefront

1,087 RESPONSES

To move through the area to other destinations on the regional freeway network

953 RESPONSES

On local streets, underneath the freeway

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Based on their experiences traveling on the Lake Interchange, respondents were asked to weigh in on the operational aspects of the existing project corridor.

WHAT ASPECTS OF THE EXISTING LAKE INTERCHANGE WORK WELL?

Respondents could choose up to three of the following options:

..... RESPONSES

Provides convenient access to the regional freeway system **886**

Provides convenient access to downtown, Historic Third Ward and Lakefront **798**

Allows for an easy commute **664**

Keeps through truck traffic off local streets **555**

Separates local and regional traffic **177**

Other **159**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT



WHAT ARE THE TOP OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE LAKE INTERCHANGE?

Respondents could choose up to three options.

 RESPONSES
Consolidate access points/ramps	440
Decrease freeway footprint	994
Improve confusing ramp configuration	753
Redesign freeway ramps to discourage speeding onto local streets	428
Correct design deficiencies on freeway	507
Other	246



WHAT ARE THE TOP OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL STREETS AND AREAS UNDER THE FREEWAY?

Respondents could choose up to three options.

 RESPONSES
Provide continuous pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations	1,201
Better activation in areas under freeway	674
Reduce parking use under freeway	230
Reconnect local street grid	1,040
Convert one-way streets to two-way	451
Other	166

The comment form questions highlighted on pages 3-5 are for input purposes and not intended as a scientific survey. Information provided is representative of the participants that answered each question.

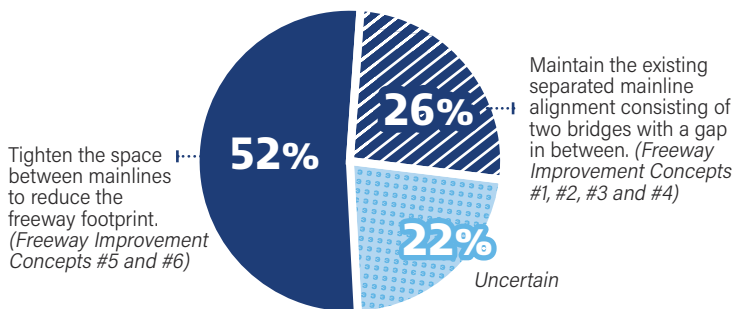


FREEWAY MAINLINE and ACCESS RAMPS

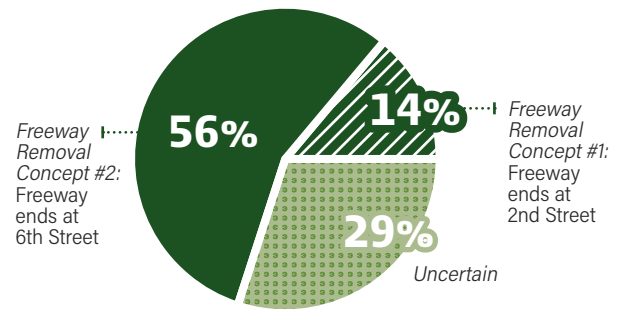


Respondents were asked to provide comments on the the freeway mainline configuration and access ramps shown in the preliminary design concepts: Replace In Kind, Freeway Improvement and Freeway Removal. To view the design concepts, visit the I-794 website at 794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov/2023-aug-public-information-meeting#designConcepts

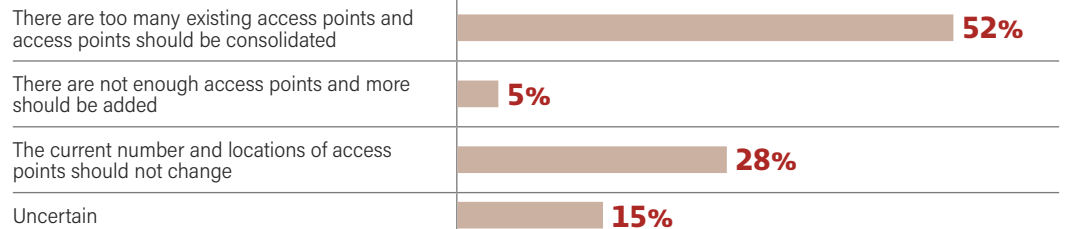
WHEN CONSIDERING THE **FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT CONCEPTS**, WHICH MAINLINE LAYOUT DO YOU PREFER?



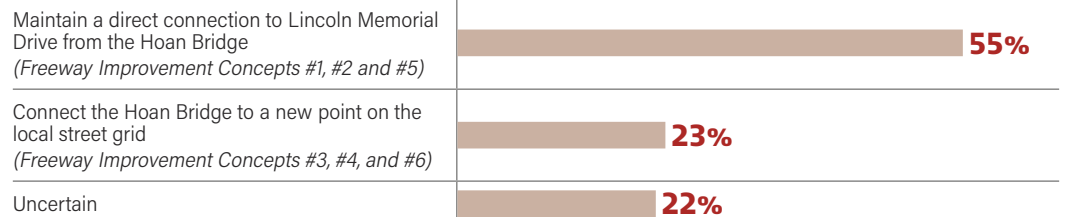
WHEN CONSIDERING THE **FREEWAY REMOVAL CONCEPTS**, WHICH CONCEPT DO YOU PREFER?



WHICH STATEMENT MOST ACCURATELY DESCRIBES THE FREEWAY ACCESS POINTS ON THE LAKE INTERCHANGE?



REGARDING THE HOAN BRIDGE FREEWAY ACCESS TO LOCAL STREETS, WHICH STATEMENT DO YOU MOST AGREE WITH?



SHOULD THE PROJECT MAINTAIN FREEWAY ACCESS AT JACKSON STREET AND VAN BUREN STREET?



SHOULD THE PROJECT MAINTAIN FREEWAY ACCESS AT MILWAUKEE STREET AND BROADWAY?



LOCAL STREETS



Respondents were asked to provide input regarding the local street network connectivity.

SHOULD THE PROJECT REDESIGN THE INTERSECTION OF CLYBOURN STREET AND LINCOLN MEMORIAL DRIVE?

YES	NO	UNCERTAIN
65%	14%	20%

SHOULD THE PROJECT CONVERT CLYBOURN STREET FROM ONE-WAY TO BI-DIRECTIONAL (TWO-WAY) BETWEEN LINCOLN MEMORIAL DRIVE AND WATER STREET?

YES	NO	UNCERTAIN
61%	15%	23%

SHOULD THE PROJECT REPLACE THE FIVE-LEGGED INTERSECTIONS AT FREEWAY RAMPS WITH TRADITIONAL INTERSECTIONS?

YES	NO	UNCERTAIN
55%	17%	28%

REGARDING A LOCAL CONNECTION TO THE THIRD WARD ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STUDY AREA, WHICH OPTION DO YOU PREFER?

Lincoln Memorial Drive continues to provide direct local access to the Third Ward
(Freeway Improvement Concepts #1, #3, #4 and #6)

39%

New Cass Street extension provides direct access to the Third Ward
(Freeway Improvement Concepts #2 and #5)

29%

Uncertain

33%

Thank you for your participation!

Your feedback is being considered as we advance the study. Public input is one factor of many that is considered as we evaluate concepts and determine next steps. This is not your last opportunity to engage with us on this important corridor. We appreciate your input and look forward to future engagement opportunities on this study!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website to stay informed and engaged:
www.794lakeinterchange.wisconsin.gov

