



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

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Contact: Van Wanggaard
608-266-1832

WANGGAARD AGREES WITH WALKER – GET I-94 DONE !

Kenosha-Racine County Senator Responds to Governor's Comments on Highway Projects

Earlier today, Governor Walker reportedly justified placing the I-39 Interstate Project before completing the long-delayed I-94 reconstruction because I-39 was "in the pipeline" first. Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) took exception to that characterization.

"I agree with the Governor that we should not separate out the transportation budget, but it's clear that Governor Walker has been misinformed about the order of projects," Wanggaard said. "I-94 North-South was under construction for more than 3 years before I-39 was officially sanctioned in 2011."

The Interstate-94 North-South corridor was enumerated in state statute in the 2007 state budget (2007 Act 20). Construction began promptly in 2008, but was halted prematurely to funnel money to rebuild the structurally-deficient Zoo Interchange in Milwaukee County. The same year that work was stopped in Racine and Kenosha Counties, the Legislature approved I-39 in Rock and Dane Counties. The I-39 construction began in 2015, seven years after I-94 N-S construction began, and 4 years after it was halted.

"Governor Walker cited economic development in Rock and Dane Counties as a reason to build I-39, but that is true all over Wisconsin," said Wanggaard. "You can see the economic development all along the completed parts of I-94 in Kenosha County. Amazon, Uline, Kenall. I-94 is lined with new jobs all along the freeway. And then you hit the government-created bottleneck in Racine County, and it just stops. It's time to finish the job. As Governor Walker said just 'Get it Done'."

Wanggaard has said he will have a difficult time voting for a state budget that does not include

funding and a timeline to complete the I-94 North-South corridor. Prior to prematurely stopping the work in Kenosha and Racine Counties, the freeway project was scheduled to be largely concluded in 2013. There is currently no scheduled date for completion of the almost 10-year project.

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