

**TOWN OF LAWRENCE**

**RESOLUTION #2024-014**

Requesting Wisconsin Dept of Transportation to Consider Maintaining Visibility to Commercial Development Along the Interstate 41 Corridor When Planning Noise Barrier Locations

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (hereafter, "WisDOT") has planned an Interstate 41 upgrade project for the coming years and the earliest environmental impact study for the corridor did not justify new noise barriers to be considered in the Town of Lawrence, and

**WHEREAS**, in around 2022, the project scope had been amended enough that a new environmental impact study was deemed necessary through the I-41 corridor, and

**WHEREAS**, the updated environmental impact studies indicated a new noise barrier would be appropriate for consideration from the area on the east side of I-41 approximately from Larry Lane to French Court based on significant new platted residential development in the City of De Pere nearby, and

**WHEREAS**, in early 2024, the WisDOT public notices allowed for those who own a house and live in it, or own property where a home may be built, to vote on whether a noise barrier would be approved to be built in this area, and

**WHEREAS**, proposed new noise barriers would be considered to help to reduce the amount of noise from an expanded I-41 corridor as it relates to nearby residential properties, and

**WHEREAS**, owners of vacant land in the vicinity of the proposed noise barrier, including the Town of Lawrence, were invited to give feedback on the proposed noise barrier and location but did not have a vote on the proposed noise barrier, and

**WHEREAS**, WisDOT has informed local landowners that the noise barrier was approved by vote of residents and the southern extent of the noise barrier may reach approximately 600 ft south of Larry Lane, in front of vacant land suitable for new commercial development, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Lawrence, and other entities, own vacant land along I-41 that is planned for commercial development and significant investments have been made in extending infrastructure to serve new development, including the creation of Tax Incremental Districts, and

**WHEREAS**, land available for commercial development along I-41 is significantly valuable to the Town of Lawrence in potential for new added tax base and promoting economic diversity, and

**WHEREAS**, the attraction for new commercial development depends in part on visibility from I-41 with over 50,000 vehicles travelling by every day.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Lawrence Board of Supervisors does hereby request that WisDOT consider maintaining and maximizing visibility for future commercial development properties along the Interstate 41 corridor into the future, and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that WisDOT consider maintaining visibility for commercial development when planning new noise barriers, while also balancing the proposed benefit in value of noise reduction for area residents.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Lawrence Board of Supervisors requests for specific consideration to move the proposed noise barrier north of Tax Parcel L-451-4 along French Road.

Approved and adopted by the members of the Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Lawrence, Brown County, State of Wisconsin this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024

Vote:

5-Aye

Town of Lawrence

0-Nay



Dr. Lanny J. Tibaldo, Town Chairperson

Attest:

Cindy Kocken, Town Clerk-Treasurer