



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

January 15, 2002

Mr. Terry Mulcahy, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 120 B
Madison, WI 53702

Re: Support for Hoan Bridge bicycle and pedestrian path

Dear Secretary Mulcahy:

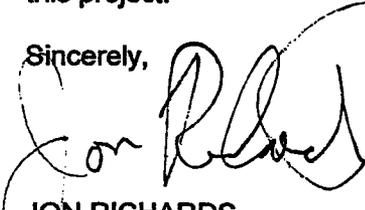
We would like to extend our full support to the proposed bicycle and walking path on the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee. This lane would provide a safe route and an incredible view for bicyclists, runners and walkers alike. The view over Milwaukee's harbor would be a likely attraction for tourists.

A bike trail over the Hoan Bridge could be operated safely. A barrier could protect bikers and walkers. The path could be closed on days of severe wind or weather. Routes of this nature have been easily and safely managed in other cities such as San Francisco, Portland and New York City.

Beyond providing safe access to a scenic outlook, there is also a practical purpose to the proposal. The Hoan Bike Trail would complete a 13-mile multi-use lake front trail network from Lake Park to Grant Park with links to Summerfest, the Hank Aaron bike trail, the Oak Leaf citywide trail, and the Lakeshore State Park.

There is strong public support for a bike trail over the Hoan. The Hoan Bike Trail would be a great addition to the City of Milwaukee. We encourage the Department of Transportation to go forward with this project.

Sincerely,


JON RICHARDS
State Representative
19th Assembly District


CHRISTINE SINICKI
State Representative
20th Assembly District

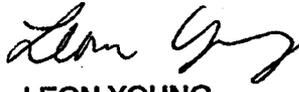

RICHARD GROBSCHMIDT
State Senator
7th Senate District


BRIAN BURKE
State Senator
3rd Senate District

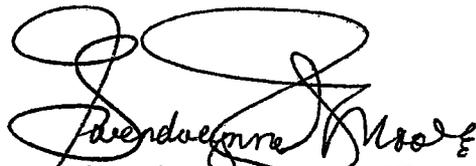

SHIRLEY KRUG
State Representative
12th Assembly District


PEGGY KRUSICK
State Representative
97th Assembly District


PETER BOCK
State Representative
7th Assembly District

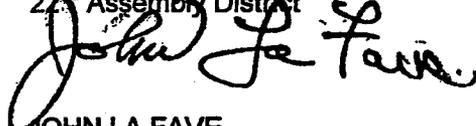

LEON YOUNG
State Representative
16th Assembly District

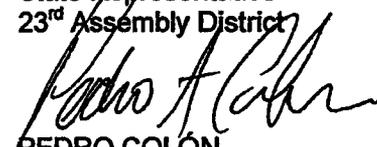

TIMOTHY CARPENTER
State Representative
9th Assembly District


GWENDOLYNNE MOORE
State Senator
4th Senate District


ANTONIO RILEY
State Representative
18th Assembly District


SHELDON WASSERMAN
State Representative
22nd Assembly District


JOHN LA FAVE
State Representative
23rd Assembly District


PEDRO COLÓN
State Representative
8th Assembly District

cc: Gene Kussart

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JON RICHARDS

**REPRESENTING MILWAUKEE'S
EAST SIDE, DOWNTOWN AND
BAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact:
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January 22, 2002

MAKE MILWAUKEE A WORLD-CLASS CITY FOR BIKING: BUILD HOAN BRIDGE BIKE PATH

Richards, other Milwaukee legislators urge WisDOT to support project

MILWAUKEE — In a letter made public today State Representative Jon Richards, D-Milwaukee, and 13 fellow Milwaukee legislators urged the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to move forward with a plan to create a bicycle and walking path on the Hoan Bridge.

“Momentum is building to create a lane for bikers, runners and walkers on the Hoan Bridge,” said Richards, a leading advocate for the path whose Assembly district includes the Hoan Bridge and most of Milwaukee’s lakefront. “This path would make Milwaukee a world-class city for bikers and pedestrians. It’s time for local and state government to move forward with this project.”

Richards released the letter at a press conference today where representatives from Milwaukee-area bicyclist clubs, including the Bike the Hoan group, the Bay View Bicycle Club, the Cream City Bicycle Club, the City of Milwaukee Bicycle Task Force and the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, and other community leaders joined together to urge support for the bike path.

The press conference took place at a WisDOT-sponsored public information meeting in Milwaukee about proposed bike path options to connect downtown Milwaukee with the Bay View neighborhood on the city’s near South Side. That meeting took place at the South Shore Park Pavillion.

Milwaukee legislators who signed the letter include: State Representatives Christine Sinicki, Shirley Krug, Peggy Krusick, Peter Bock, Leon Young, Tim Carpenter, Antonio Riley, Sheldon Wasserman, John La Fave and Pedro Colon and State Senators Richard Grobschmidt, Gwendolynne Moore, Brian Burke. The Hoan Bridge Bike path option also has the support of many local officials, including County Supervisors and Milwaukee Alderpeople.

According to Richards, the Hoan Bridge bike path would not only provide access to a scenic outlook, but would serve as a convenient route for Bay View residents to use to commute to work downtown. The bike path would help complete a 13-mile multi-use lakefront trail network from Lake Park to Grant Park with links to Summerfest, the Hank Aaron bike trail, the Oak Leaf citywide trail and the Lakeshore State Park.

In 1991, \$1.5 million in federal transportation funds were earmarked to help build a bicycle trail that would link Bay View to downtown Milwaukee. The money came with the condition that local matching funds would be contributed. For the project to proceed, WisDOT must recommend the Hoan Bridge bike path option.

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[Copy of letter text attached]



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JON RICHARDS

SERVING MILWAUKEE'S
EAST SIDE, DOWNTOWN AND
BAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS

Imagine: Biking across the Hoan Bridge

[The following is a statement from State Representative Jon Richards in support of building a bike path on the Hoan Bridge. The statement was given at a January 22, 2002 public hearing conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation at the South Shore Park Pavilion.]

Momentum is building in Milwaukee to create a lane for bikers, runners and walkers on the Hoan Bridge.

More and more public officials are beginning to follow the lead of Milwaukee's bicycling enthusiasts. Today, for example, I am pleased to announce that 14 state legislators from Milwaukee—myself included—have a signed a letter urging the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to support the Hoan Bridge bike path.

Many County Supervisors and City officials have also indicated their support.

Just take a moment to imagine biking or walking across the Hoan Bridge and you'll understand why support is growing. As you would cross the bridge, which spans the city's harbor, you would be treated to fantastic vistas of the cityscape on one side, and the Calatrava art museum and lakefront on the other.

Building such a path would make Milwaukee a world-class city for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Of course, beyond providing access to a scenic outlook, a Hoan Bridge bike path would also be practical. People living in Bay View could use the path as a convenient way to commute to work downtown. Other bikers would appreciate the fact that a Hoan Bridge bike path would complete a 13-mile multi-use lakefront trail network from Lake Park to Grant Park with links to Summerfest, the Hank Aaron bike trail, the Oak Leaf citywide trail and the Lakeshore State Park.

What makes the prospect of a Hoan Bridge bike path particularly exciting is that there's already money set aside for it. In 1991, about \$1.5 million in federal transportation funds were earmarked to help build a bicycle trail that would link Bay View to downtown Milwaukee. The money came with the condition that local matching funds would be contributed.

The path on the Hoan Bridge would be safe-safer even than a city street as a concrete barrier would separate cars from pedestrians and bikers. The path would not add to traffic congestion. Traffic on the Hoan is rarely congested now, and—according to WisDOT traffic projections—the bike lane would not cause any noticeable increase in traffic. People worried about traffic problems should consider the examples of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge, both of which easily accommodate much more car and bike and pedestrian traffic than the Hoan Bridge would.

Let's push Milwaukee to become a world-class city for bikers and pedestrians. We've got a beautiful urban and natural environment here in Milwaukee. Building the Hoan Bridge bike path will do a great deal to enhance the beauty and accessibility of those treasures.

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CAPITOL

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