

Air Quality Impact Evaluation

According to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (1991), a federal agency may not approve or fund a transportation project unless it conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality. To conform to the SIP, a project cannot (1) cause or contribute to a new violation of any National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any NAAQS, and (3) delay timely attainment of any NAAQS or any other required interim emissions reductions or other milestones.

The project area is located entirely within the Southeastern Wisconsin Air Quality Control Region (AQCR) #239. Six of the seven counties in this AQCR, including Racine and Kenosha Counties, are classified as "severe nonattainment" for ozone. As a result of this classification, numerous measures must be taken to reduce ozone-forming emissions. These measures are included in a scheduled SIP leading to the attainment of the ozone standard by no later than 2007. The Southeastern Wisconsin Intrastate AQCR is currently in attainment of the NAAQS for all other criteria pollutants. The proposed project is an integral component of *A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010*. The Transportation Improvement Program, *A Transportation Improvement Program for Southeastern Wisconsin: 1995-1997 (TIP)*, which was endorsed by SEWRPC, was found to conform by FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration in December 1994. This project will be included in the updated 1995-1997 TIP.

It was determined through consultation with the Wisconsin DNR that the entire project corridor is exempt from permit requirements under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR411. No substantial impacts to air quality are expected (See Appendix B, page B-18).