

INTERSTATE PROJECT TO BE DONE A YEAR EARLY

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MILTON - The Interstate 39/90 expansion project should be completed a year ahead of schedule.

Gov. Scott Walker announced Tuesday approximately \$70 million will be advanced, which will allow other areas of the I-39/90 expansion project to be accelerated including the I-39/90 and U.S. 12/18 Beltline Interchange in Madison.

"Costs have come in lower than expected, and that means we are getting I-39/90 done sooner," Walker said during a visit in Milton Tuesday. "This is great news for travelers because we are improving safety and easing congestion along some of the busiest roads in the state. So far, the Department of Transportation has generated \$246 million worth of savings and advanced 67 projects across the Wisconsin. That's great news for taxpayers, too."

The Interstate 39/90 corridor is approximately 45 miles long, running from the Illinois state line to the U.S. 12/18 Beltline Interchange near Madison. The project includes adding a third lane of traffic in each direction, plus improvements to interchanges.

The entire project now is expected to be completed one year ahead of schedule in the fall of 2021 instead of the original 2022 date.

The I-39/90 expansion from Beloit to Janesville is expected to be complete by the spring of 2020, according to Wisconsin Department of Transportation estimates. Work on the expansion in Beloit started last summer, stretching from Hart Road to U.S. Highway 14 in Janesville. Lane widening from Hart Road to County Road O is expected to be finished at the end of 2019.

The Interstate 43 interchange project to add a new entrance to Beloit, along with major lane reconstruction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2019, according to WisDOT.

The final major lane construction project for the southern I-39/90 project will be completed in the fall of 2021 with major lane reconstruction from I-43 to East Hart Road, according to WisDOT estimates.

Major components of the interstate project include:

- Reconstructing and expanding Interstate 39/90 from four to six lanes between Beloit and

Madison;

- Replacing more than 100 bridges;
- Reconfiguring 11 interchanges to improve safety and traffic flow; and
- Expanding Hwy. 11 (Avalon Road) to the Hwy. 26 interchange in Janesville from four to eight lanes.