

Just FIX IT



I-43: Stuck in a Rut

Reconstruction on Indefinite Hold Due to Funding

Dashboard. This has become a common word used to describe I-43 from Milwaukee to Door County.

Over the years, this Interstate has received the necessary maintenance and been resurfaced multiple times to preserve the road and restore a smoother ride.

But certain parts of I-43, like the portion between Silver Spring Drive and Grafton, are simply old. This section, originally built between the mid-1950s and mid-1960s, has been resurfaced three times.

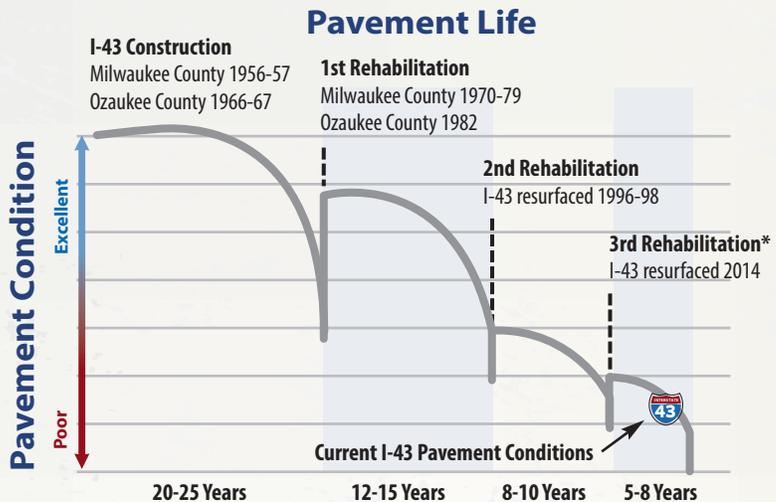
Each resurfacing has a shorter and shorter life span because the original pavement, still in place after more than 50 years, provides a less stable base as it continues to crack and fall apart.

WisDOT said of the last resurfacing completed in 2014, it “will extend the life and drivable condition of the pavement for a few years until I-43 is reconstructed.”

However, the reconstruction project recommended in 2014 for legislative approval by the Transportation Projects Commission, a group of legislators and citizens, “has been put on hold until further notice,” according to the WisDOT website.



I-43 (Silver Spring Dr. to WIS 60) Study Final EIS/ROD



Typical Pavement Life Cycles

*Many states decide to reconstruct in place of further rehabilitations

As commuters know, this roadway will need to be resurfaced again soon. The resurfacing, which will not address safety and congestion concerns, will cost an estimated \$15 million, disrupt traffic and last even fewer years than the previous one.

And the almost \$20 million the state spent to study the corridor? Well, some portion of the study may need to be redone when and if the state decides to think about long-term returns on investment.

What people post on Facebook



Aaron

It's an awful stretch of freeway in the entire area by far! With the population growing along that line, we need to approve that reconstruction plan in the budget somehow. It's too small and overcrowded. It can be dangerous. I manage healthcare transportation drivers and that is the most dreaded stretch of freeway. Should be big 3 lanes on each side and have an interchange on Highland for the hospital.



Don

Whoever designed the on/off ramps - especially the northbound on ramp near Bayshore, needs to be in rehab.



Poul

Pitted with potholes, poorly paved and crowded. The on-ramps and off-ramps are mostly too short and people tend to speed 10 + miles over the limit, at times.



Peyin

Needs an upgrade....crowded. Full of potholes. Bumps. Poorly paved



McCain

Scary



Craig

It's terrible. Definitely needs an upgrade!



Debi

Slow



David

Worst stretch of freeway in the state considering the amount of daily traffic. Needs a completely redesigned flow for growth from North Ave to Hwy 33/ 57 interchange area in Port Washington!



Lisa

Please don't fix it, I drive down that road to churn butter. 🍞



Dan

I try to avoid it when I can.



Christopher

It's like driving on a washboard. Horrible.



Victor

Vehicle front end alignment's nightmare

*Do you drive
I-43 between
Silver Spring Drive
and Grafton often?

How would you
describe your ride?*



You Don't Have to be an Engineer...

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation study of I-43 between Silver Spring Drive and Grafton found the need for improvement is demonstrated through a combination of factors including the following:

- **Pavement, freeway design and geometric deficiencies;**
- **Safety;**
- **Existing and future traffic volumes;**
- **Regional land use and transportation planning; and**
- **System linkage and route importance.**

These findings come as no surprise to people who drive the corridor often.