

## Marquette Interchange—North Leg Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S. Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Marquette Interchange Project is the largest, most complex project that WisDOT has ever undertaken. The Federal Highway Administration has categorized the Marquette Interchange Project, with a construction cost of \$810 million, as a “Mega-Project” because of its complexity in the middle of Milwaukee’s downtown and the importance of the interchange to the Midwest economy.

The Marquette Interchange is vital to Wisconsin’s economy and transportation system since it joins I-94, I-794, and I-43, and is the cornerstone of the southeastern Wisconsin freeway system. Most of the area’s freeways intersect at the interchange, which links about one-third of the state’s freeway traffic to the rest of the country.



Collins Engineers, Inc., in partnership with Figg Bridge Inspection, Inc. and subconsultant EMCS, Inc., has been retained by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation as the Construction Engineering Consultant for the north leg of the Marquette Interchange Project. The Figg/Collins team is providing construction inspection, management, and documentation services for this 1.25-mile section of the interchange along I-43. This portion of the project began construction on October 4, 2004 and is scheduled to be completed in December 2006.

The north leg of the Marquette Interchange Project involves the segment of I-43 from Wisconsin Avenue to North Avenue. It includes rebuilding the Interstate pavement; demolishing bridges, rebuilding nine bridges (seven prestressed and two steel I-girder that cross I-43); realignment of the Kilbourn Tunnel entrance; and approximately 20 new retaining walls, all while maintaining the current level of service open to traffic. This project will employ the largest scale of drilled shaft, secant pile construction ever undertaken in the Midwest, as well as anywhere in the world under these conditions. This contract will prove to be particularly challenging because of tight right-of-way constraints in this highly urban area, as well as the impressive schedule that will have to be maintained to finish the project on time. The construction contract bid was awarded to Walsh Construction for \$102.7 million.