



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Southeast Region

I.D. 1060-33-01

Zoo Interchange Corridor Study

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Public Hearing
June 2009



Zoo Interchange Corridor



Welcome

Thank you for attending the Public hearing for the Zoo Interchange corridor study's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The hearing is an open forum. You are invited to review exhibits, ask questions, and provide testimony concerning the project. Representatives for the study team are here to discuss the recommended improvement alternatives and to answer your questions.

This public hearing is part of the total process of involving the public in transportation related decisions. It is an opportunity to have a voice in finalizing the recommended interchange and corridor improvements to be presented here today. Full consideration will be given to all substantive oral and written testimony.

Your testimony can be oral, written, or both as explained on the following pages. Since the start of this study, your comments have been critical in developing alternatives that meet the needs and expectations of the community. All comments received during the hearing comment period will be considered in finalizing the recommended alternatives.

When you arrive

- Please sign in
- Review the information in this hearing packet
- Review the exhibits and displays, and discuss the project with study team representatives
- Decide how you want to present your testimony - you may give both oral and written testimony



Oral testimony

Tell a court reporter your name, address, whom you represent (if applicable), and your comments. Try to make specific comments about the recommended interchange improvements

Written Testimony

Write your testimony on the comment form enclosed at the back of the hearing packet and place it in the comment box or mail it after the hearing. You may attach additional sheets if your comments do not fit on the comment form.

Mailed comments must be post-marked no later than July 13, 2009 to be included as part of the public hearing record. You can also e-mail comments to dotdtsdsezoo@dot.wi.gov, or fax them to (262) 548-5662 by July 13, 2009.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process

An EIS has two stages. The first stage is a Draft EIS (DEIS). The DEIS discusses the "No Action" alternative and a range of reasonable "Build" alternatives along with their effects. The DEIS also includes and documents public involvement and resource agency issues and concerns, and measures to minimize harm caused by the project.

The Final EIS document, which includes public and agency comments and mitigation measures, is then prepared. The Final EIS identifies the recommended alternative and reasons for its selection.

Finally, at least 30 days must pass from the time the Final EIS is published before a Record of Decision can be made. The Record of Decision identifies the mitigation measures that will be taken, and is the final environmental approval that is needed before an action analyzed in the EIS may proceed to final design and construction.

Copies of the DEIS are available at today's meeting and available for review at the following locations or on www.seffreeways.org:

WisDOT SE Region
141 NW Barstow Street
Waukesha

Wauwatosa Public Library
7635 W. North Avenue

West Allis Public Library
7421 W. National Avenue

Milwaukee Public Library – Capitol Dr
3969 N. 74th Street

Milwaukee Public Library – downtown
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue

WisDOT Bureau of Equity and
Environmental Services
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Rm 451,
Madison

Purpose of and Need for the Project

The purpose of the project is to address the study-area freeway system's deteriorated condition, obsolete design, congestion, and high crash rate. A combination of factors demonstrates the need for the transportation improvements in the Zoo Interchange corridor:

- Regional land use and transportation planning growth forecasts have identified the need for additional freeway traffic lanes on the study-area freeway system.
- The Zoo Interchange is a critical system link for I-94, I-894 and US-45. The Zoo Interchange provides a link for travelers and industry across the northern United States, the Fox Valley, Chicago, Madison and the Milwaukee metro area.
- The Zoo Interchange carries more than 345,000 vehicles on an average weekday - more than any other freeway system interchange in Wisconsin. By 2035, traffic volumes are expected to rise 18 percent over the current volumes.
- From 2001 to 2006, there were 2.5 crashes per day (not including deer/other animal crashes) on the freeway and interchange entrance/exit ramps. These crash rates are between two to five times higher than for other similar freeways in the state.
- Existing freeway conditions and deficiencies—The study-area freeway system was completed in 1963. Over the years, the concrete pavement has become worn and cracked. WisDOT has resurfaced I-94 twice since 1963 and US 45 and I-894 three times which has returned the roadway to a smooth riding surface but did not address the pavement cracks or the voids in the gravel base under the pavement. The structural condition of the study-area freeway system bridges is an important factor in the need for the proposed action. The condition of the bridges has deteriorated over the years due to age, heavier than expected traffic, road salt, freeze-thaw cycles, and water entering cracks in the bridges. Though the bridges are safe to drive on currently, they are nearing the end of their useful life. In addition to the physical condition and other substandard design elements, the current design includes both left- and right-hand entrance and exit ramps that impact traffic flow as drivers are required to weave across several lanes.

Alternatives

For a description of the alternatives, please see the DEIS or the project newsletter mailed in June 2009 (available at tonight's meeting), or handouts of the alternatives available at the display boards.

- There is a preferred alternative for the Core, the west leg and the south leg.
- There is not a preferred alternative for the north leg, the east leg or for the number of lanes on the freeway (6 lane vs. 8 lane.) The preferred alternative in these areas will be identified in the Final EIS later this year.

Your input is critical to the identification of a preferred alternative.

Summary of Impacts

The DEIS explains impacts the project may have to the natural and human environment.

The impacts of the Build Alternatives are greater than the No-Build Alternative and the other alternatives considered. The impacts of the 6-lane and 8-lane modernization alternatives are similar because much of the reconstruction could be completed within the existing right-of-way. However, narrow strips of new right of way, totaling about 55 to 74 acres within the study area, would need to be acquired.



Detailed impact information and summaries are also available for review in the DEIS and the June 2009 project newsletter.

Current and future noise estimates can be found in the DEIS and possible noise barrier locations can be found on the exhibits that illustrate the alternatives.

Construction cost estimates are available in the DEIS. Cost estimates for this and other WisDOT projects are calculated assuming a certain construction year; the estimates are then presented in those future dollars. The timing for construction of the Zoo Interchange is unknown, in part due to the complicated economic situation and in part because we cannot commit what future legislatures will fund in later year budgets. The costs for construction listed in the DEIS are for construction beginning in 2015. Those cost estimates may change when the actual construction year is determined.

State of Wisconsin relocation benefits

Legislation has made it possible for assistance to be provided to those persons, businesses, non-profit organizations, farms, and others who may be relocated as a result of the acquisition of lands for public highway improvements.

Briefly, the provisions state that WisDOT will assist those who may be displaced from their homes or businesses to ensure to the maximum extent possible, the prompt and equitable relocation and re-establishment of displaced persons, regardless of race, creed, religion, or national origin. WisDOT will make prompt, fair, and reasonable payments and will assist affected persons by making available all necessary relocation information and services.

Brochures on relocation assistance and benefits are available at today's public hearing and real estate representatives are present to answer your questions.



What happens next

The schedule for Zoo Interchange study activities after the public hearings on June 23 and 24 is as follows:

- **May 29 - July 13** – Public hearing comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- **July 13 - Fall 2009** – The study team reviews and evaluates public hearing testimony and comments on the DEIS, and then it will prepare the Final EIS.
- **Fall 2009** – The Final EIS becomes available. This will identify the final preferred alternative and summarize input received from the public hearing and comments on the DEIS.
- **Early 2010: Anticipated Record of Decision (ROD) from the Federal Highway Administration** –The ROD is the final environmental approval that is needed before proceeding to final design and construction.

Funding for the Zoo Interchange is a state and federal decision. As the state budget becomes finalized, information will be shared on the timing of engineering and construction.

Contact information

Donna Brown
Project Director
Phone: (262) 548-8713
E-mail: donna.brown@dot.wi.gov

Tracy Gilliam
Project Supervisor
Phone: (262) 548-6444
E-mail: tracy.gilliam@dot.wi.gov

Manojoy Nag
Mega Project Manager
Phone: (262) 548-6423
E-mail: manojoy.nag@dot.wi.gov

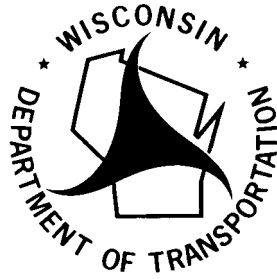
Jim Liptack
Project Manager
Phone: (262) 548-8662
E-mail: jim.liptack@dot.wi.gov

Jason Lynch
Project Manager
Phone: (414) 750-0538
E-mail: Jason.Lynch@dot.wi.gov

Dan Vaclav
WisDOT real estate representative
262-521-4413
Daniel.Vaclav@dot.wi.gov

Project Web site: www.seffreeways.org

Zoo hotline number: (262)-548-6421



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Zoo Interchange Corridor Study

Milwaukee County

Public Hearing Testimony

All comments must be postmarked by July 13, 2009 to be part of the public record.

FROM:

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

Are additional pages included? Yes No

Please fold here

Place
Postage
Here

Jim Liptack
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
SE Transportation Region
1001 West St. Paul Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Please fold here