



WIS 96 Fox River Bridge and Approaches Corridor Study

March 2008

Contact Information

For more information about the WIS 96 Fox River Bridge and Approaches corridor study contact:

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Mission statement:

To provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system.

Public meeting scheduled

- Wednesday, April 9, 2008
- 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Wrightstown Elementary School gymnasium
- 351 High Street, Wrightstown
- Short presentation at 6:00 p.m.

Introduction

This is the second newsletter keeping you informed about the WIS 96 Fox River Bridge and Approaches corridor study being conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The goal of the study is to recommend a preferred crossing location that meets the existing and future needs for the village of Wrightstown and surrounding communities. The two-year study will be completed with a recommendation in mid-2009. Construction is tentatively planned to begin in the 2012-2013 time frame.

Need for a new replacement bridge

The need for the new replacement bridge is based on the existing bridge's deficiencies and its regional importance.

Bridge deficiencies - The WIS 96 bridge was constructed in 1934 and is reaching the end of its service life. While the bridge is structurally sound, it is too narrow for the volume and type of traffic it carries today and will need to accommodate in the future. WisDOT has determined it is more cost effective to replace the existing bridge rather than rehabilitate it.

Local and Regional importance of WIS 96 bridge - The nearest Fox River crossings are in De Pere (10 miles north) and Kaukauna (6.5 miles south). The WIS 96 bridge not only provides an essential connection for the village of Wrightstown and surrounding communities, but also provides a critical connection to employers, health care providers and recreational and retail opportunities in other parts of the Fox Valley.



Bridge approach – related issues

As the new bridge location continues to be studied, deficiencies along the existing bridge approaches have been identified. Some of the more important issues are listed below.

Safety - The five-year (2002-2006) crash rate on WIS 96 between Oak Street and Fair Street was higher than the statewide five-year average for similar roadways. Crashes at the County D, County DD and County ZZ intersections accounted for 50 percent of the crashes during the five-year period.

Traffic operations – The 90-degree turns at the WIS 96/County D and WIS 96/County DD intersections present challenges to large trucks. There are also sight distance issues at the County DD, County D and County ZZ intersections.

Study update

The project's first public information meeting was held on December 12, 2007 at the Wrightstown Elementary School cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project and project staff and obtain public input on the study goals, project-area transportation deficiencies and other aspects of the study. Approximately 75 people attended the open-house meeting. A short presentation was given that provided an overview of the project.

Some of the common themes heard from the public were:

- There are safety issues at the County DD, County D and County ZZ intersections with WIS 96 for both traffic and pedestrians.
- There are safety issues near the schools as students attempt to walk across WIS 96.
- The number of large trucks passing through the village is increasing and poses safety problems in the community and generates noise.
- Various ideas were provided on locations for a new bridge.

Since the first public information meeting, WisDOT and the project team have focused on developing a wide range of preliminary river crossing alternatives that have the ability to address the study goals and area transportation deficiencies identified by the public and Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

The third PAC meeting was held on February 12, 2008 to review the issues with a new replacement bridge and the preliminary range of river crossing alternatives. During the meeting, PAC members ranked the ability of the preliminary alternatives to meet the study goals. The preliminary alternatives comparison table developed at the PAC meeting will be on display at the April 9th public information meeting.

Preliminary alternatives being considered

The project team has developed 23 preliminary alternatives that will be presented at the April 9th meeting. The preliminary alternatives are grouped into five categories listed below. The alternatives comparison table mentioned above will present preliminary impact information for the alternatives as well as ratings on the alternatives' ability to meet study goals.

- Far south bridge alternatives (3 alternatives)
- In-town south bridge alternatives (7 alternatives)
- New bridge at existing location (1 alternative)
- In-town north bridge alternatives (9 alternatives)
- Far north bridge alternatives (3 alternatives)

What's next?

Following the April 9th public information meeting, the study team will conduct the following activities:

- Review the input received at the second public information meeting
- Use the input received at the second public information meeting and the PAC meeting to refine the preliminary alternatives and begin screening them
- Meet with the PAC in late spring to further discuss alternatives
- Continue work on environmental document
- Continue coordination with state and federal review agencies
- Conduct third public meeting in summer/fall 2008 to display the reasonable range of alternatives

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Please join us on April 9

WisDOT invites the public to attend the second public information meeting for the WIS 96 Fox River Bridge and Approaches corridor study on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. This meeting will be conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Wrightstown Elementary School gymnasium, 351 High Street, Wrightstown. A short presentation will be given at 6 p.m. This meeting will be held in an open-house format. Interested persons may stop in and visit with the project team, learn more about the study, review preliminary range of alternatives and share ideas and concerns. This meeting is an opportunity for citizens to offer feedback as the team moves ahead with alternatives development. If you cannot attend this meeting but would like to receive information about the study, or previous study materials, please contact Paul Vraney of WisDOT (see page 1 for contact information).