Public Involvement Handout

South Bridge Connector
County EB/F in the Town of Lawrence to County GV/X in the Town of Ledgeview
Brown County

Project ID: 4556-02-00

March 19, 2020
**Purpose of the handout**

This handout was originally prepared to provide background information for a public involvement meeting that was scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Altmayer Elementary School. Due to recommendations and orders from the state and federal government to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the in-person meeting was indefinitely postponed. Instead of holding an in-person meeting, the project team is making the meeting materials available for public review on the project website and inviting comments on these materials until April 20, 2020 (see contact information and comment form on the last three pages of this handout).

The project team is sharing this information to update the public on the South Bridge Connector Study and to obtain public input. The current study, which was re-initiated in December 2019, builds on previous efforts to evaluate alternatives to address transportation needs in the southern part of the Green Bay Metropolitan Area. The following communities are located within the study area: Town of Lawrence, City of De Pere, Town of Ledgeview.

The purpose of the project is to identify the most appropriate improvements for addressing existing east-west transportation demand and demand that will be generated by the planned development in the southern portion of the Green Bay metropolitan area. This project is needed to:

- Address congestion in the vicinity of existing Fox River bridges.
- Accommodate existing and planned land use and future travel demand generated by planned development.
- Reduce travel time by improving east-west connectivity.
- Address higher-than-average crash rates and safety issues in the vicinity of the existing Fox River bridges.

The public involvement materials discuss the corridor alternatives retained for detailed analysis and the process for identifying a preferred corridor alternative.

Members of the public are invited to listen to the recorded presentation on the project website, review displays, ask questions and provide comments via the comment form included in this handout or via email to the contact listed at the end of this packet. Comments received by **April 20, 2020** will be included in the public involvement summary prepared by Brown County.

**Project information**

The lead agencies for this study are Brown County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The study will result in a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). The Tier 1 Draft EIS will identify a preferred corridor alternative and the ROD will identify a selected corridor alternative for addressing existing and projected travel demand in the southern portion of the Green Bay Metropolitan Area. To identify a preferred corridor alternative, the lead agencies are evaluating how the alternatives retained for detailed study meet the screening criteria, and gathering input from the public, tribes, and agencies.

Environmental resource impact analysis is currently in progress. The existing environmental conditions and a discussion of the environmental consequences of each alternative will be presented in the Tier 1 Draft EIS.
Figure 1: Initial Range of Alternative Corridors Considered

Figure 2: Alternative Corridors Screening Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Range of Alternatives Considered</th>
<th>Alternatives Remaining after Screening Step 1</th>
<th>Corridor Alternatives Remaining after Screening Step 2</th>
<th>Corridor Alternatives Remaining after Screening Step 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Build</td>
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<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Build</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve Existing Roads</td>
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<td>☑</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuring-Heritage Rd</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑ (with and without I-41 interchange)</td>
<td>☑ (with I-41 interchange)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockland-Red Maple Rd</td>
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<td>☑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockland-Red Maple-WIS 172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockland-Red Maple-American-Schuring</td>
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<td>Creekview Road-Rockland-Red Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6 Hybrid</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-41-Midway-WIS 172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom-Midway-WIS 172</td>
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<td>Williams Grant-WIS 57</td>
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<td>Freedom-County ZZ-County MM</td>
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<td>Freedom-County ZZ-WIS 96</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-41 to I-43</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation System Management (As stand alone alternative): ☑

Transportation Demand Management (As stand alone alternative): ☑
Summary of the December Public Involvement Meeting

The most recent Public Involvement Meeting for the South Bridge Connector Project was on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Altmayer Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a status update on the South Bridge Connector Study and give attendees the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Approximately 269 people attended the meeting. Representatives from Brown County, WisDOT, and the consultant team were available to answer questions about the study and receive input from the attendees.

Exhibits were available for attendees to review, with project staff present to answer questions during the open house portion of the meeting. Cole Runge from Brown County gave a presentation on the history of the project and the process going forward. Comment forms were available at the meeting for participants to submit. At the end of the comment period, Brown County collected 40 comment letters (total of those handed in at the meeting and submitted after the meeting).

A summary of overall comment themes included:

- Preference for a specific alternative (Rockland/Red Maple Roads Alternative; Heritage Road Alternatives; or alternative which included a Fox River crossing at Little Rapids)
- Lack of support for the project or comments that the project is not needed
- Request to complete the project as soon as possible
- Request to provide sidewalks and bike lanes as part of the eventual preferred alternative corridor
- Concerns over property value
- Concerns over Old Plank Road and surrounding neighborhood, including speeding and intersection concerns along WIS 57
- Impacts to businesses if traffic is diverted away from downtown De Pere
- Environmental impact concerns including impacts to the Fox River, Bald Eagles, and recreation
- Cost and source of funding for the project
- Specific design related questions such as bridge design, speed limit, and traffic control
- Request for traffic counts along proposed alternative corridor
- Concerns over construction impacts and timing

Responses to comments will be provided in the Tier 1 Draft EIS. Many of the comments requested information that requires a greater level of design than will be provided in the Tier 1 Draft EIS. These comments will be addressed during the Tier 2 process. The Tier 2 environmental documents will provide greater detail regarding design, traffic impacts, environmental impacts and costs, and construction impacts.

Real estate

Additional land will be acquired as highway right-of-way if this project is built. It is too early in the study to identify the exact properties affected and the amount of land needed for the project. Brown County would likely begin real estate acquisition two years in advance of construction. Construction would be phased over several years.
Project update/next steps

Involving the public, tribes, local officials, and regulatory agencies is important to project planning and development. A Local Officials Meeting was held on March 4, 2020 to discuss the corridor alternatives retained for detailed study. The project team continues to coordinate with local officials, state and federal agencies, and American Indian Tribes to discuss the corridor alternatives and status of the project.

The study will include a public hearing in the summer of 2020. The Tier 1 EIS is anticipated to end with a signed Record of Decision (ROD) in late 2020. The ROD will document the final decision of the Tier 1 EIS, including the possible approval of the corridor location for the South Bridge Connector. The lead federal agency for this study is the Federal Highway Administration. Tier 2 environmental documents will be completed prior to construction for each section of the project as funding is secured. The Tier 2 environmental documents will be prepared with a greater degree of engineering detail and a more detailed impact analysis for specific improvements in the corridor.

Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Attached to this handout is a sheet for your written comments and input regarding the proposed project. Please mail any written comments about the project by April 20, 2020 or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also e-mail your comments to the study team contact listed below.

Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. Your input is welcome and appreciated throughout the design process.

For more information, please contact:

Cole Runge
Brown County
PO Box 23600
Green Bay, WI 54305-3600
(920) 448-6480
Cole.Runge@browncountywi.gov

Project Website:
www.browncountywi.gov/departments/planning-and-land-services/planning/south-bridge-connector/
Public Involvement Meeting Comment Form

Project ID 4556-02-00
South Bridge Connector
County EB/F in the Town of Lawrence to
County GV/X in the Town of Ledgeview
Brown County

March 19, 2020

Please place this form in the comment box or mail by April 20, 2020 to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be e-mailed to Cole.Runge@browncountywi.gov. Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. Your input is welcome and appreciated throughout the design process.

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________

Daytime Phone Number (optional): ______________________________________

Email Address (optional): _____________________________________________

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)
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The information in this document including names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and signatures is not confidential, and may be subject to disclosure upon request, pursuant to the requirements of the Wisconsin open records law, sections 19.31 - 19.39 of the Wisconsin Statutes.