

Hearing Handout Packet



Public Hearing For

Environmental Assessment

I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 Interchange

IL 75 to County S and Cranston Road to WIS 140

Rock County

Project ID: 1003-10-02

Beloit Public Library, Beloit WI

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

5:00 to 8 p.m.



Handout Packet Contents

Page	Description
1	Welcome
1	Public Hearing Agenda
1-2	Options and Instructions for Providing Testimony
3	Project/Study Location Map
4	Purpose of the Public Hearing
4	Environmental Documentation Process
5	Information for the Public Hearing Record
5-6	Project Statement
7	Property Acquisition/Relocation Assistance and Benefits
8	Preferred Alternative Impact Matrix
9	Next Steps/Project Schedule
9	Description of Public Hearing Exhibits
10	Contact Information
11	Written Testimony Form [Due by February 26, 2015]
13	Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony

Welcome

Thank you for attending today's public hearing for the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 Interchange project. This public hearing provides you the opportunity to give testimony on the Environmental Assessment that contains information regarding proposed transportation improvements that affect both near-term and long-term changes to the corridor.

Public Hearing Agenda

Time	Item
5:00 p.m.	Sign in, pick up handout, review exhibits, visit with project staff and ask questions about the proposed improvements.
	Important! – Determine if you will be providing testimony. If so, determine which option(s) and follow the instructions*.
	Availability to provide Private Verbal Testimony* and Written Testimony* begins. Both options are available until the end of the public hearing.
5:30 p.m.	Project presentation in Beloit Public Library.
	Public Verbal Testimony* option begins in Beloit Public Library upon completion of project presentation.
	Opportunity to review exhibits and visit with project staff continues.
7:30 p.m.	Public Hearing ends.
	Written (mail in and email) testimony* available until February 26, 2015.
8:00 p.m.	Open House Ends.

***See the following “Options and Instructions for Providing Testimony”**

Options and Instructions for Providing Testimony

There are several options for providing testimony as described below. Your testimony will be reviewed and considered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the process for choosing the preferred alternative.

Testimony, statements, or opinions should be limited to tonight's public hearing aspects of this project. Questions related to the project can be directed to project staff during the informal discussions, but will not be recorded by the court reporter or included in the public hearing record.

Private Verbal Testimony

This option may be preferred if you wish to make your statement privately to the court reporter rather than in front of an audience. This option is available during the entire public hearing from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., although you are also encouraged to attend the project presentation starting at 5:30 p.m. Follow the signs or ask for directions to the location for providing private verbal testimony. Wait for an opening, provide the court reporter with your completed “Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony” included in this handout packet, state your name, address, and if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. Then give the court reporter your testimony.

Public Verbal Testimony

Following the project presentation at 5:30 p.m. in the Beloit Public Library, public verbal testimony will be accepted. Complete a “Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony” included in this handout packet. Give it to designate project staff anytime before, during or immediately following the project presentation. Your name will be called in the order the registration slips are received. When you are called to the microphone to provide testimony, please state your name, address, and if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. Please limit your testimony to approximately 3 minutes to allow time for others to provide their testimony in public. You can testify again as part of the public verbal testimony after others wishing to testify have done so. Public verbal testimony will continue until everyone interested in providing testimony has had the opportunity to do so or until the public hearing ends at 7:30 p.m., whichever comes first.

Written Testimony

You may provide written testimony in addition to, or in place of, verbal testimony. Complete the “Written Testimony Form” included in this handout packet. You may also use your own stationary. Include your name, address, and if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. If you prepared written testimony prior to the public hearing, you may submit that also. There are two options for submitting your written testimony as described below.

Submit Tonight: Complete the Written Testimony Form and place the form along with any other supporting documentation in the comment box at sign in table in the Beloit Public Library.

OR,

Mail In: You may prefer this option if you would like additional time to organize your thoughts/testimony. The Written Testimony Form is pre-addressed and does not require postage. You may also send written testimony via e-mail. See “WisDOT Contact Information” on Page 10 of this handout. Mailed or e-mailed testimony must be postmarked or received no later than February 26, 2015 to be included in the official public hearing record.

Project Area Study Limits Map



Purpose of the Public Hearing

The objective of the public hearing and environmental document availability period is to get the most complete expression of public opinion regarding the project aspects listed in this handout on the record. Testimony provided during this public hearing and during the environmental document availability period will be considered along with all other judgments and opinions received before further decisions are made on the proposed project alternative. This public hearing includes a project presentation and opportunities to provide public/private verbal testimony to a court reporter and/or written testimony. All testimony will be entered into the public hearing record along with other public hearing presentations, exhibits and materials

This public hearing will focus on the following aspects of the proposed I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 project:

- The location and design features of the proposed improvements.
- The National and Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act public hearing process, as applicable, on projects which include preparation of an environmental document. The final environmental document prepared following this public hearing will be the decision document for the proposed improvements. Copies of the environmental document are available for review at this public hearing.
- Project activities that require authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act for placing fill into waters of the United States including wetlands.

Environmental Document Process

The environmental documentation process includes development of a project purpose and need, range of alternatives, evaluation and screening of alternatives, and selection of a preferred alternative. Numerous factors are considered throughout the environmental document development process including safety, mobility, compatibility with state/regional/local plans, engineering design standards, impacts to the socio-economic, natural and physical environment, cost, and input from the public and state/federal review agencies.

The I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange is currently at the Environmental Assessment stage. The Environmental Assessment documents the project purpose and need for the proposed improvements, alternatives considered, environmental impacts of the alternatives retained for detailed study, and public involvement and agency coordination during the development of the purpose and need and refinement of alternatives. The final environmental document will identify the preferred alternative, reasons for its selection and summarize the results of public testimony provided during the public hearing and document availability period along with agency comments on the Environmental Assessment.

Information for the Public Hearing Record

In addition to the testimony provided at this public hearing, all exhibits, handouts, audio/visual presentations and displays available for viewing at the public hearing will be included in the official public hearing record. Page 9 of this handout contains a complete listing of these materials. Other materials, along with other written testimony received after the public hearing, will be added to the official public hearing record provided they are postmarked or received no later than February 26, 2015.

Project Statement

The purpose of the proposed I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange improvements is to upgrade the interchange to meet current design standards, improve overall safety, accommodate future traffic with an acceptable Level of Service (LOS), replace aging pavements and structures, and enhance local mobility to the city of Beloit. The need for the project includes the following:

- **Route Importance/System Linkage** – Both I-39/90 and I-43 are WisDOT backbone routes that are part of the National Highway System. I-39/90 truck traffic is higher compared to other Wisconsin interstate highways. The I 39/90 & I 43/WIS 81 interchange serves as an important connector route in the state of Wisconsin and serves as the primary interstate access to the city of Beloit via WIS 81. Local access from this interchange is important in order to be consistent with local and regional transportation and land use planning objectives and to be compatible with the proposed roadway improvements identified in the City of Beloit's 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The plan includes the desire to develop regional commercial uses near the I-43 interchange. Specifically, the area between I-43 and IL 75 has been identified as an area for future business park development.
- **Traffic Roadway Capacity** – Existing I-39/90 and I-43 were evaluated to determine the interchange's roadway capacity. The results indicate the interchange will operate at LOS F in the design year 2040. Most diverge and merge movements will also operate at LOS F in the design year. Weave movements onto I 39/90 are anticipated to operate at LOS D in the design year.
- **Safety** – There are three weaving movements at the current interchange that have crash rates over 50% higher than the state average for freeway segments.
- **Interchange Deficiencies** – The existing pavements and structures are aging and deteriorated based on 1983/84 pavement and 1959 structures. The interchange configuration is from the original 1960 interchange construction which results in several interchange design deficiencies that do not meet current WisDOT Facilities Development Manual (FDM) standards. These deficiencies include speed ratings on ramps, taper entrance ramps, and ramp superelevations.

Proposed Interchange

The project will provide a safe and efficient transportation system at the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange. The alignment of I-39/90 will be shifted to the east such that the southbound lanes will be located on the existing location of the northbound lanes. I-39/90 through the interchange area will be improved from 2 through lanes in each direction to 3 through lanes in each direction. I-43 east of I-39/90 will be reconstructed to maintain 2 through lanes in each direction. The new I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange will include posted 65 mph free-flow 2 lane roadways from I-43 southbound to I-39/90 southbound and from I-39/90 northbound to I-43 northbound. It will also include posted 55 mph free-flow one lane roadways from I-39/90 southbound to I-43 northbound and from I-43 southbound to I-39/90 northbound.

The limits and designation of WIS 81 will change as a result of the proposed action. WIS 81 (Milwaukee Street) will provide 2 through lanes in each direction from the Freeman/Ford intersection easterly over I-39/90 to the I-43 and County X/Hart Road interchange. Intersection control along WIS 81 will include traffic signals at Freeman/Ford intersection, traffic signals at the I-39/90 ramp intersections utilizing a diverging diamond interchange alignment, and stop sign for Gateway Boulevard traffic at WIS 81. Access to and from I-43 and Beloit via WIS 81 will occur by utilizing the existing I-43 and County X/Hart Road interchange.

The following are impacts to wetlands and floodplain in the project area.

Wetland R-31 located in the northwest quadrant of the I-43 interchange will be impacted from the realignment of WIS 81/Milwaukee Road to provide better construction staging and remove an extra curve along I-39/90. The proposed action will extend WIS 81/Milwaukee Road to the County X/Hart Road interchange. The roadway will be expanded from its current width to provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The re-alignment will result in placing fill in this wetland. This wetland is approximately 0.6 acres. It has been agreed upon by WisDOT and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to mitigate the impact at a 1:1 ratio by debiting the 0.6 acres to WisDOT's World Dairy Center Wetland Mitigation Bank Site.

Floodplain

New roadway improvements at the I-39/90 crossing of Spring Brook will impact 1.9 acres of the 100-year floodplain. Through highway design, the proposed improvements will not impact the floodplain boundaries in this area.

Flood Storage

9.6 acre-feet of flood storage impacts will occur along the proposed WIS 81/Milwaukee Road extension between the I-43 and County X/Hart Road interchanges. Through highway design, 9.6 acre-feet of compensatory flood storage will be incorporated into the proposed interchange. Therefore, the project will not affect the overall flood storage capacity in this area.

Property Acquisition/Relocation Assistance and Benefits

Before any property acquisition activities are initiated, members of the Region Real Estate staff will contact the property owner to explain the details of the acquisition process and Wisconsin's Eminent Domain Law. All properties to be acquired will be inspected and appraised by one or more professional appraisers. The property owner will be asked to accompany the appraiser during inspection of the property to be acquired, to assure that its value is recognized in the appraisal. Based upon the appraisal or appraisals made, the fair market value of the property to be acquired will be determined, and that amount will be offered to the owner.

WisDOT has acquired thru early acquisition of property 3490 Millington Road, Beloit, WI. It is not anticipated that any additional homes or businesses will need to be acquired as a result of this project. The acquisition of necessary rights-of-way for this project is scheduled to begin in 2016. It is anticipated that 82 acres of right of way acquisition will be needed for this project. Depending upon the availability of funding, construction could begin in late 2017 if a build alternative is selected.

Preferred Alternative Impacts Table



I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 Interchange Preferred Alternative Impacts Table



Factors	Preferred Alternative
Project Length (Lane Miles)	35
Construction Cost: Structures (\$Mil)	42
Construction Cost: Non-Structures (\$Mil)	62
Real Estate Cost (\$Mil)	6
Total Cost (\$Mil)	110
Farms Affected	7
Wetland Filled (Acres)	0.6
Upland Habitat Area to ROW (Acres)	15.4
Other Area Converted to ROW (Acres)	66
Total New Right of Way Area (Acres)	82
Total Area Required from Farm Operations (Acres)	56
Buildings Required	1
Floodplain Encroachment	Yes
Flood Storage Encroachment	Yes
Stream Crossings	2
Endangered Species Affected	0
Potentially Eligible Historic Properties	1
Archaeological Sites	0



Next Steps

At the end of the document availability period, the project team will review and consider all public hearing testimony received on the Environmental Assessment. This input will assist the project team in selecting the preferred alternative. Upcoming milestones in completing the engineering and environmental study for the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange project include the following:

Comments regarding impacts and effects of proposed improvements will be addressed in the final environmental document if postmarked/received no later than **February 26, 2015** to be included in Final EA document

Final Environmental Document – March 2015

Public Involvement Meeting – 2016

Final Design 2015 – 2017

Real Estate Acquisition –2016 & 2017

Anticipated Construction – late 2017 - 2019

Description of Public Hearing Exhibits

1. Preferred Alternative Exhibit displays the preferred alternative that has been selected in the environmental assessment. It also displays the environmental impacts based on the proposed improvements.
2. Preferred Alternative Impact Matrix displays the different environmental factors of the preferred alternative.
3. Project Location Map displays the construction extents of the proposed improvements.
4. Preferred Intersection Control Exhibit displays the preferred WIS 81 intersection control for Freeman Parkway/Ford Street, the I-39/90 ramp terminals, and Gateway Boulevard.

Contact Information

Submittal of Written testimony or general project questions

Additional written public hearing testimony on the Environmental Assessment after this public hearing should be sent to the WisDOT project manager at the address or email address given below. Additional testimony will be added to the official public hearing record and considered in the final environmental document provided it is postmarked or received no later than February 26, 2015.

Steve Marshall
Southwest Region Project Office
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
111 Interstate Blvd
Edgerton, WI 53534

Steve.Marshall@dot.wi.gov

Property acquisition/relocation questions

Questions specific to property acquisition and/or relocations of homes and businesses can be most efficiently answered by real estate staff.

Jamie Brud
Southwest Region Project Office
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
111 Interstate Blvd
Edgerton, WI 53534

jamie.brud@dot.wi.gov

Project website (project information, schedule and updates)

www.i39-90.wi.gov,

- I-43 EA can be found under the Resources tab and Environmental section

Written Testimony Form

I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 Interchange
IL 75 to County S and Cranston Road to WIS 140
Public Hearing
Beloit Public Library
February 11, 2015



Please place this form in the comment box at the sign in table tonight or send as indicated below*

Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____ E-mail Address (optional): _____

Testimony (use additional pages if necessary):

[illegible]

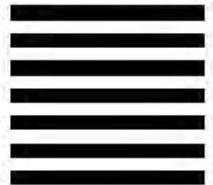
***WRITTEN TESTIMONY CAN BE SUBMITTED TONIGHT (FEBRUARY 11, 2015), IN THE MAIL OR EMAILED, BUT MUST BE POSTMARKED OR EMAILED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 26, 2015 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARING RECORD.**

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IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 2226 MADISON WI
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ATTN: STEVE MARSHALL
DTSD SOUTHWEST REGION-EDGERTON OFFICE
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
111 INTERSTATE BLVD
EDGERTON WI 53534-9907



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Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony

I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 Interchange
IL 75 to County S and Cranston Road to WIS 140
Public Hearing
Beloit Public Library
February 11, 2015



This registration slip may be used for providing public or private verbal testimony. Following the project presentation at 5:30 p.m. in the Beloit Public Library, public verbal testimony will take place. Complete this registration slip and submit it to a project team representative during or immediately following the presentation. Your name will be called in the order registration slips are received. When you are called to the microphone to provide testimony, please state your name, address, and who you represent if applicable (for example a business). Please speak slowly and clearly. A court reporter will record your testimony. Please limit your testimony to comments and/or opinions regarding the proposed project aspects for which this public hearing is being held. To allow everyone a chance to speak, please limit your testimony to approximately 3 minutes.

The same process applies for providing private verbal testimony, but this registration slip should be presented directly to the court reporter when a spot is available to provide your private verbal testimony.

If you do not wish to speak, but would like to use this registration slip to record your position on the proposed improvements being considered at the public hearing, please check the applicable boxes below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

If applicable - group, organization, or business you are representing:

☐ **Wishing to speak**

☐ **Not wishing to speak, but please record my position on the proposed improvements being considered at the public hearing:**

☐ Support, describe: _____

☐ Do Not Support, describe: _____
