



FALL 2013

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Community, transportation officials break ground on I-39/90 expansion project

Community representatives were joined by state and local officials on June 13, 2013 to break ground on the WIS 11 (Racine Street) interchange reconstruction in Janesville.

“This Interstate corridor is an essential gateway for residents, commerce and visitors to Wisconsin,” said WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb. “Reconstructing and expanding I-39/90 for commerce and tourism will be a significant benefit to Wisconsin and its residents. Credit must go to Governor Scott Walker, the state Legislature and Wisconsin’s Transportation Projects Commission for supporting this major reconstruction project. We look forward to its completion in 2021.”

The WIS 11 (Racine Street) interchange reconstruction is the first construction work related to the expansion of I-39/90 from the Illinois state line north to the US 12/18 interchange near Madison. From 2006 to 2010, there were 101 crashes at the WIS 11 interchange, including

two fatalities. Improving safety and mobility at this location is critical prior to the start of Interstate reconstruction scheduled for 2015.

“We’re excited to kick-off construction on this major expansion project,” said John Vesperman, WisDOT I-39/90 Project Chief, during the ceremony. “Crews will reconstruct the interchange over the next five months. These early projects, along with improvements to the alternate routes, will help with traffic congestion during the Interstate expansion.”

This interchange is one of three projects taking place in preparation for Interstate expansion scheduled for 2015. Other construction activities this year include temporary widening of I-39/90 near Beloit and installation of additional traffic cameras and message boards. Learn more inside this newsletter.



There were many safety concerns with the current cloverleaf configuration. There was inadequate merging capacity for vehicles (especially semi-trucks) when traveling from eastbound Racine Street to northbound I-39/90 and westbound Racine Street to southbound I-39/90.

The new configuration and incorporation of roundabouts have distinct safety advantages over conventional intersections, resulting in reductions of fatalities and injuries from crashes. According to the 2011 UW Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory Study, of selected roundabouts, Wisconsin roundabouts provide a reduction in fatal or injury crashes and a decrease in overall crashes.

Construction of the interchange is scheduled to be completed in November 2013.

Interchange reconstruction underway

Crews started ahead of schedule in mid-June to reconstruct the WIS 11 (Racine Street) interchange in Janesville. As mentioned in the spring newsletter, the major reconstruction project is converting the cloverleaf interchange into a diamond interchange with two double lane roundabouts at the ramp terminals. These roundabouts, approximately 200 feet in diameter, will accommodate large trucks and oversize/overweight trucks that use the highway.

The WIS 11 (Racine Street) interchange reconstruction is on an accelerated schedule to minimize community and traffic impacts.

Temporary ramp movements are in effect until October 2013.

Weekly construction updates are posted on the project website, under the News tab. Access to area businesses, Dean Clinic and St. Mary's Janesville Hospital continue to be maintained.

Traffic cameras and message boards provide real-time travel information

In late July, WisDOT started installing additional traffic monitoring cameras and message boards along the 45-miles of Interstate 39/90. The Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) features will alert motorists of potential traffic delays and provide alternate routes so motorists may reach their destination safely and efficiently.

Work is anticipated to be completed in November 2013.

Anyone interested can view the traffic cameras and travel times on Wisconsin's highways by visiting WisDOT's 511 website, www.511wi.gov. You can also view the traffic cameras and message boards on the project website, www.i39-90.wi.gov, under the Maps tab.



PIMs held for North & Central segments

Public information meetings (PIMs) for the North and Central segments were held in July and August 2013.

Information presented at the meetings featured detailed design alternatives, including right of way impacts. All maps, exhibits and handouts provided at the PIMs are available on the project website. The public can provide comments and feedback on the project by clicking on the "Comments" link on the project website. The South segment PIM date will be announced.

As a result of the proposed upgrades to I-39/90, new right of way is required along the Interstate mainline, at interchanges and overpasses. The acquisition process in the state of Wisconsin is described in Chapter 32 of Wisconsin Statutes. WisDOT real estate agents were available at the

PIMs to answer questions regarding right of way impacts.

If part of your property is needed for the project, WisDOT will compensate you the fair market value of the property being purchased. The offer you will receive is based on an appraisal or a study of market data. A WisDOT representative will meet with you to explain the offer and the area that needs to be purchased.

More information can be found on the project website, under Related Information on the Resources tab.



New website provides interactive experience and new features

The I-39/90 expansion project has a new website!

The website alias, www.i39-90.wi.gov, will continue to direct you to the project website. However, if you bookmarked the website, you will need to change your bookmark to: <http://projects.511wi.gov/web/i-39-90-project/>.

The new website provides visitors with travel times, upcoming traffic impacts and lane closures on current construction projects and much more.

The I-39/90 project team

encourages everyone to visit the website and become familiar with the different features. If you haven't done so already, be sure to sign up for project updates via email under the Sign Up for Updates tab.

Contact the project team at i39-90Project@dot.wi.gov with any questions regarding the website.



Temporary widening continues

Construction crews continue to temporarily widen the southbound Interstate shoulders from the Woodman Road overpass south to the Illinois state line. Work is being completed ahead of the Interstate expansion in order to accommodate four lanes of traffic on one side of I-39/90 for traffic staging purposes.

For more information on the lane closures and traffic impacts, visit the project website and click on the News tab.

Work is expected to be completed in November 2013.



Environmental Assessment re-evaluation

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-39/90 corridor, from the Illinois state line to the US 12/18 interchange, was signed in July 2008 and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in October 2010. The EA identified and evaluated the project's purpose and need, range of alternatives, potential environmental impacts and documented agency and public comments. The EA's findings indicated a need for an expansion and reconstruction of I-39/90, including the reconstruction of existing interchanges.

Due to design changes for safety and operations of I-39/90, an updated environmental evaluation will be completed. The re-evaluation will determine if the overall conclusions remain valid to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Environmental issues being re-evaluated include: wetlands, agricultural impacts, noise, archaeological/historic impacts, hazardous materials, threatened and endangered species, stream crossings, floodplains and stormwater/drainage.

Agency and Tribal coordination and ongoing public involvement will be considered and incorporated into the final document.

In addition to the re-evaluation, two new EAs will be completed at the system interchanges, one at the US 12/18 or Beltline interchange (Madison) and one at the I-43/WIS 81 interchange (Beloit), due to independent utility in these areas. That is, a project must be able to function on its own, without further construction of a nearby segment.

WisDOT will gather public comments throughout the EA process. PIMs will be held for each segment. The draft EAs for the US 12/18 or Beltline interchange and I-43/WIS 81 interchange will be available online and at locations for public comment, and a public hearing will be held for each interchange. The Notice of Availability in local newspapers and other media will advise the public where the document is available, how to obtain hard copies and where to send comments. All comments received will be given consideration and responses will be prepared for inclusion in the final document.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise outreach

Since November 2012, a diverse group of Rock County residents, elected officials, business owners and representatives from community organizations have been meeting monthly to form the Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

This citizen-led committee was launched by the I-39/90 project team in its effort to make sure that community stakeholders have a viable tool to:

- Ensure that future investments on the I-39/90 expansion project will benefit Rock County residents and community organizations and
- Provide opportunities to overcome the construction industry's diversity shortages.

The committee meetings are open to all stakeholders with an interest in the economic development opportunities that will be made available through the project. For additional information about committee activities, visit the project website, under the Resources tab.



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I-39/90 Expansion Project Newsletter

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Stay up-to-date on the I-39/90 Expansion Project, from construction updates to meeting notices and handouts, connect with us to get information in whichever way is most convenient.

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 I39-90Project@dot.wi.gov

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