

Interstate 39/90 expansion to improve safety & efficiency

Interstate 39/90 is vital to Wisconsin's economic future by serving as a major corridor for the transportation of people and commerce, as well as a gateway to many tourism and recreational destinations across Wisconsin.

The I-39/90 Project area extends approximately 45 miles from the Illinois state line to the US 12/18 interchange near Madison. This section of Interstate is experiencing significant traffic delays, especially during peak travel times.

In its current state, I-39/90 cannot adequately support the existing traffic volumes, or projected increases, thus resulting in poor traffic flow and increased safety problems.

In order to address those safety and congestion concerns, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will reconstruct and expand I-39/90 from four to six lanes and reconfigure 11 interchanges.

In the Janesville area, I-39/90 will be expanded to eight lanes to accommodate projected traffic increases.



Corridor Facts

- 10,900 businesses are located in communities along the Interstate.
- More than 260,000 people are employed by businesses located in communities along I-39/90.
- On average, nearly 70,000 vehicles per day used the I-39/90 corridor in 2011.
- The project area represents one of the "gateways" to the state in terms of tourism access and dollars spent by visitors to Wisconsin.
- In 2011, Dane and Rock counties had an estimated \$1.4 billion impact in terms of visitor expenditures from food, lodging, retail sales and tourist related attractions in the communities along the Interstate.
- More than 361,030 residents live in communities along I-39/90.

The reconstruction of I-39/90 in Dane and Rock counties will be one of the largest highway projects undertaken in south-central Wisconsin.

Refining the roadway will allow more motorists to conveniently travel the area, increasing economic activity in the entire region and providing new opportunities for growth in tourism and business.

The corridor facts (left) highlight the importance of I-39/90 to Wisconsin.

Outside of the project area, I-39/90 links to other Interstates and major highways making it an important route in connecting various major cities, including: Chicago, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Wisconsin Dells.

Message from the Secretary: Get ready to expand in south-central Wisconsin



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will soon expand and improve 45 miles of Interstate 39/90 in south-central Wisconsin. The I-39/90 expansion project is divided into three segments, but is referred to as one project.

I-39/90 is one of the largest gateways for both in-state and out-of-state residents to reach the many tourism and recreational destinations in the state, including the Wisconsin Dells and points further north.

The I-39/90 corridor is an important segment of the state's transportation system and the national Interstate system. As a designated federal truck route, about 35 percent of the Interstate's total traffic volume consists of heavy trucks. That's an increase from 30 percent truck traffic from just five years ago (2007). I-39/90 is also a designated oversize/overweight (OSOW) route which connects to other OSOW routes. The truck route designation increases the importance of the route operating safely and efficiently.

The state legislature and Governor Walker enumerated this project in the last state budget, understanding the importance of it to Wisconsin's economy, and the need for it by the business community and residents in the Beloit and Janesville area. In fact, in 2011, Dane and Rock counties had an estimated \$1.4 billion impact in terms of visitor expenditures from food, lodging, retail sales and tourist related attractions in the communities along I-39/90.

Like other Interstate highways in the state, I-39/90 was built in the 1960s and all 11 interchanges along the

corridor have substandard design features that contribute to increased safety concerns and traffic congestion.

In order to address those safety and congestion concerns, WisDOT will reconstruct and expand I-39/90 to six lanes from the Illinois state line in Rock County to the US 12/18 interchange near Madison in Dane County. Due to projected traffic increases in the Janesville area, the Interstate will be expanded to eight lanes for 6.5 miles from WIS 11 (Avalon Rd.) north to the WIS 26 interchange.

Each of the three segments is responsible for about 12-20 miles of the Interstate and alternate routes in their respective segment limits. This multi-team approach keeps the project more manageable and with the individual teams focusing on specific areas and concerns.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about the latest activities involving the I-39/90 expansion project. In this issue you will find:

- An overview of the project and current construction schedule
- A look at upcoming activities and ways you can get involved

Project staff have worked diligently to develop a plan that will efficiently address south-central Wisconsin's transportation needs for many years. WisDOT encourages you to stay involved and remain informed.

- Secretary Mark Gottlieb, P.E.
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

ITS features to be installed in 2013

ITS is short for Intelligent Transportation Systems which utilizes technology such as traffic monitoring cameras and message boards to provide motorists with real-time traveler information.



WisDOT has incorporated many ITS features on many Interstates and major highways throughout Wisconsin. These systems are designed to alert motorists of potential traffic delays and alternate routes so they may

reach their destination safely and efficiently.

ITS work is scheduled to start in 2013 and will be operational prior to construction starting on I-39/90.

Another convenience for motorists is WisDOT's 511 traveler information system. Simply dial 511 to get free, real-time travel conditions. Information is quick, easy to get and at your fingertips!



Project separated into three segments for design purposes

Due to the size and magnitude of the 45-mile segment of I-39/90, the project is separated into three segments for design purposes.

Each segment is responsible for about 12-20 miles of the Interstate and alternate routes in their respective segment limits.

This multi-team approach keeps the project more manageable and with the individual teams focusing on specific areas and concerns. (Segment maps shown on the right)

North Segment:

- Dane/Rock County line to US 12/18
- Approximately 21 miles
- Interchanges to be reconstructed: US 51/WIS 73, US 51, County N and US 12/18

Central Segment:

- County O to Dane/Rock County line
- Approximately 13 miles
- Interchanges to be reconstructed: WIS 11 (Racine St.), US 14, WIS 26 and WIS 59

South Segment:

- Illinois state line to County O
- Approximately 12 miles
- Interchanges to be reconstructed: WIS 11 (west), County S (Shopiere Rd.) and I-43/WIS 81

Each segment team reports to the project management oversight team on the current design schedule and potential design concerns. The oversight team provides progress updates to the U.S. Department of Transportation (Federal Highways Administration) and WisDOT Central Office to ensure all parties are informed.



Meet the Project Chief



In May 2011, WisDOT announced John Vesperman as Project Chief for the I-39/90 expansion project.

In his 26-year WisDOT career, Vesperman has worked in a wide range of roles including, but not limited to, Design/Construction Engineer, Construction Project Engineer, Chief Project Development Engineer, District One (now Southwest Region) Operations Chief, and most recently as the Southwest Region Planning Chief.

Vesperman has been instrumental in the I-39/90 environmental process and has developed effective local working relationships in his role as Southwest Region Planning Chief.

“The project team continues to work closely with municipalities, businesses, property owners and the public to plan for this major expansion and reconstruction project,” said Vesperman.

Local official meetings and public information meetings (PIMs) will continue into 2013 to increase project awareness. Stay informed and involved through the project website, www.i39-90.wi.gov, and project Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WisconsinI3990Project.

Thank you for your patience as we “improve a gateway to Wisconsin.”

- John Vesperman, P.E.
I-39/90 Project Chief

Corridor Segment Maps

North Segment Dane/Rock County Line to US 12/18



Central Segment County O to the Dane/Rock County Line



South Segment Illinois State Line to County O



I-39/90 Project Team

John Vesperman, P.E.
I-39/90 Project Chief
john.vesperman@dot.wi.gov

John Steiner, P.E.
I-39/90 Project Supervisor
john.steiner@dot.wi.gov

Kim Schauder, P.E.
I-39/90 Project Supervisor
kimberly.schauder@dot.wi.gov

Jim Buschkopf, P.E.
I-39/90 Corridor Project Manager
james.buschkopf@dot.wi.gov

Craig Pringle, P.E.
North Segment
I-39/90 Project Manager
craig.pringle@dot.wi.gov

Jim Buschkopf, P.E.
Central Segment
I-39/90 Interim Project Manager
james.buschkopf@dot.wi.gov

Steve Marshall, P.E.
South Segment
I-39/90 Project Manager
steve.marshall@dot.wi.gov

Community Outreach



Central Segment Public Information Meeting held on September 19, 2012 at Marshall Middle School in Janesville.

Community input is a key element to the success of any road project, especially one of this magnitude.

To better gather public input on the I-39/90 expansion project, the project's segment teams have hosted several meetings with stakeholders, local governments, businesses and individual

landowners. These meetings allow the segment teams to share design alternatives and to gather public input.

The information provided by stakeholders, combined with additional project information from the study phase, will help each segment team create a final design.

There will be several opportunities throughout the design phase of this project to provide feedback as additional public information meetings (PIMs) are scheduled.

In the meantime, if you wish to provide feedback, we encourage you to contact the project manager who represents the segment of interest to you. A listing of those contacts is highlighted above.

There is also a link on the project website that you can click on to provide input. Simply visit www.i39-90.wi.gov and click on the comments/feedback link.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

**Wisconsin Department
of Transportation**
I-39/90 Project
2101 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704-2583



**Look inside for important details about the
I-39/90 expansion project.**

I-39/90 Project Schedule

Year 2011

- Design process started.

Year 2012

- Survey work and traffic counts throughout project area.
- Meetings with local officials and municipalities about the project.
- Maintenance work and improvements to possible alternate routes.
- Host public information meetings to gather input.

Year 2013

- Construction on WIS 11 (Racine St.) interchange scheduled to start.
- Installation of message boards and traffic monitoring cameras.

Year 2014

- WIS 73 reconstruction between I-39/90 and US 12/18.

Year 2015

- I-39/90 construction scheduled to start.
- Additional alternate route improvements.

Year 2021

- Construction expected to be completed.



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I39-90Project@dot.wi.gov



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