



WINTER 2013-2014

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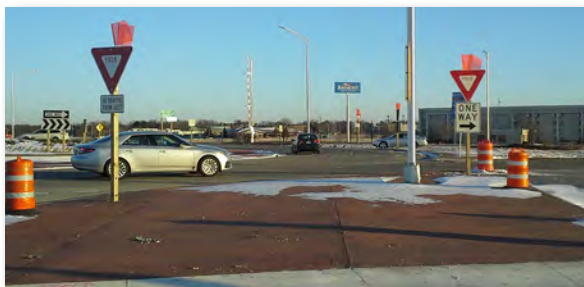
Connect with us!

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Construction complete on the WIS 11 (Racine Street) interchange in Janesville

The I-39/90 and WIS 11 (Racine Street) interchange is open after reconstruction and now has two multi-lane roundabouts at the ramp terminals. The interchange was completed on schedule and we thank the community of Janesville and area businesses for their support and understanding during construction.

Since roundabouts are relatively new in the Janesville area, project staff understood the importance for an extensive roundabout outreach program on how to safely navigate them. This included reaching out to residents, businesses, leisure travelers, schools, emergency responders and

others who rely on this vital travel route on a regular basis.

Project staff developed brochures, handout materials and display boards with information about navigating roundabouts and staff also hosted several educational meetings. In addition, several

narrated drive-through simulation videos were developed and shared with area businesses and placed on the project website.

“The DOT has been so helpful in terms of keeping us informed throughout construction and providing us with materials to help our patients and staff safely navigate the new roundabouts,” said Joan Neeno, St. Mary’s Janesville Hospital spokesperson. “In particular, they’ve done a great job in responding to our unique needs. As a hospital, we need to be accessible at all times to ambulances and the Hwy 11 project team has gone above and beyond to address our concerns.”

For more information about roundabouts including videos and brochures, visit the Resources tab on the project website.

2014 Construction outlook

As project staff plan and prepare for another construction season, here’s a look ahead for 2014 construction activities related to the I-39/90 expansion project:

- WIS 73 reconstruction from I-39/90 north to US 12/18 in Dane County. Visit the website, www.dot.wi.gov/projects/swregion/73, to learn more about the upcoming improvements.
- Reconstruct the I-39/90 southbound bridge over Siggelkow Road, south of the US 12/18 interchange near Madison.

- Repaving on I-39/90 from Milwaukee Street in Janesville to just north of the WIS 73/US 51 interchange in Dane County.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) features (i.e., traffic cameras and message boards) will continue to be installed through May 2014.

More information on 2014 construction work will be provided on the project website, www.i39-90.wi.gov, and in the upcoming spring newsletter.

DDIs provide smoother traffic flow and improved access

Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDIs) are being incorporated throughout the United States and WisDOT is considering constructing DDIs at several highway interchanges within the state, including along the I-39/90 corridor.

This innovative interchange is designed to provide motorists with a smoother traffic flow and improved access to local roads and businesses.

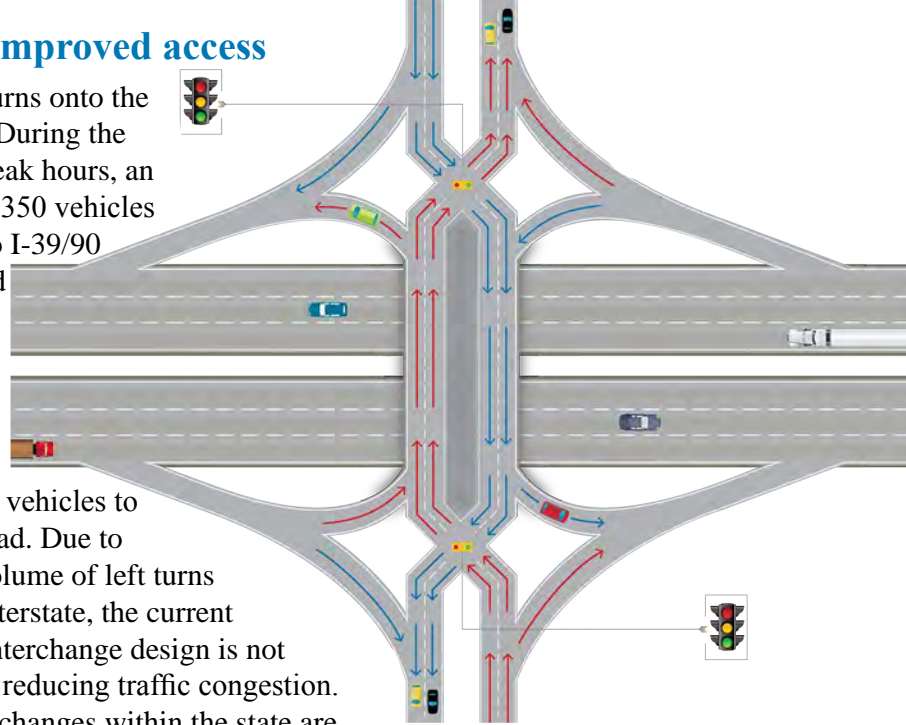
So what is a DDI? A DDI is a type of interchange that connects an Interstate with a major highway. The DDI is based on a standard diamond interchange with a shift in the highway traffic within the interchange to safely and efficiently accommodate high volume left turn movements. Within the interchange, traffic on the highway briefly drives on the left side of the road to allow left turn movements to occur without crossing oncoming traffic or stopping. A DDI has fewer conflict points, reducing the opportunities for crashes, and reduces backups from vehicles waiting for oncoming traffic to clear in order to make a left hand turn. Just like all intersections, drivers follow the overhead signs, pavement markings and traffic signals.

For the I-39/90 project, a DDI is being considered at the WIS 11 (Avalon Road) interchange, south of Janesville. This intersection has a significant amount of traffic, particularly large trucks and oversize/overweight trucks, making

left hand turns onto the Interstate. During the morning peak hours, an average of 350 vehicles merge onto I-39/90 northbound from WIS 11 eastbound compared to only 71 through vehicles to Avalon Road. Due to the high volume of left turns onto the Interstate, the current diamond interchange design is not efficient at reducing traffic congestion. Other interchanges within the state are also being considered for this type of interchange, such as the I-39/90 and WIS 26 interchange in Janesville.

DDIs have many operational and safety benefits, and are designed to meet the needs of all motorists. The benefits include:

- **Safety:** Reduces the number of ways vehicles can collide by almost half (14 compared to 26 for a conventional diamond interchange).
- **Greater capacity and efficiency:** Accommodates more traffic than conventional designs. Drivers make free-flow, left turns onto the Interstate.



- **Reduces backup congestion:** At intersections where there is a high volume of left turns onto the Interstate, DDIs reduce traffic backups because the free-flow left turns mean vehicles do not have to stop to access the ramp.
- **Easy navigation:** Guides drivers with overhead signs, pavement markings and traffic signals.
- **Meets the needs of all road users:** Accommodates large trucks, oversize/overweight trucks, motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

More information, including narrated videos and brochures, can be found on the project website, under Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDIs) on the Resources tab.



PIMs held for South segment

A Public Involvement Meeting (PIM) for the South segment was held in October 2013. Information presented at the meeting included refined design alternatives for this segment of the project, such as improvements to the I-39/90 mainline, County S interchange and the WIS 11 (Avalon Road) interchange. Real estate representatives were also available to discuss right of way impacts.

All maps, exhibits and handouts provided at the PIM are available on the project website.

If you review the materials and would like to provide feedback, you can click on the “Comments” link on the project website and send us your input.

The South segment also held a PIM in December 2013 to discuss interchange alternatives for the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange near Beloit. WisDOT staff continues to fine tune the interchange alternatives in coordination with the city of Beloit and area stakeholders. Exhibits of the interchange can be found on the project website, under Maps/exhibits on the South segment page.

Winter driving safety

WisDOT wants you and your family to stay safe on the roads this winter. Here are some tips and advice to keep in mind when driving during the winter months. And don't forget our winter driving motto: Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!



Be Prepared!

- **Knowledge:** Before leaving home, find out about the driving conditions by calling 511 or visiting, www.511wi.gov.
- **Clear:** Remove any snow or ice from the windows, lights, hood and roof of your vehicle before driving. Make sure you can see and be seen.
- **Inspect:** Check your vehicle's tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts and hoses.
- **Time:** Leave plenty of time to reach your destination safely. It's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation just to be on time.

Proceed with Caution!

- **Speed:** The faster you're going, the longer it will take to stop. When accelerating on snow or ice, take it slow to avoid slipping or sliding.
- **Distance:** It takes extra time and extra distance to bring your car to a stop on slick and snowy roads. Leave extra room between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- **Brake:** Brake early and brake correctly. It takes more time

and distance to stop in adverse conditions.

- **Control:** Don't use your cruise control in wintry conditions. Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the short touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control feature can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- **Vision:** Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions by cars and trucks will alert you more quickly to problems and give you a split-second extra time to react safely.

Stay Safe around Snowplows!

In the winter, snowplow drivers are out on the roads to keep them clear of snow and ice and keep you safe. Here's what you need to know about driving around snowplows:

- **Distance:** Give snowplows room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. If approaching a snowplow, stay back at least 200 feet. Try not to pass, but if you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud.
- **Speed:** Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit. Be patient. Allow plenty of time to slow down.
- **Vision:** A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don't always see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops or turns.

We're connected, are you?

Get social with the I-39/90 expansion project by liking our page on Facebook, [Facebook.com/WisconsinI3990Project](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinI3990Project), and checking out our videos on WisDOT's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/wisdot](https://www.youtube.com/user/wisdot). These are great tools for us to share relevant information about project updates, upcoming meetings and construction information. So come on, get connected today!



New home for the I-39/90 expansion project

The Southwest Region project field office in Edgerton opened its doors on October 28, 2013. WisDOT and consultant staff will use the renovated office space during the design and construction phases of the I-39/90 expansion project.

"The new office at 111 Interstate Boulevard in Edgerton is centrally located along I-39/90 to provide close proximity to all segments of the 45-mile corridor," said John Vesperman, I-39/90 Project Chief. "It will be a central place for officials and the general public to come if they have questions or concerns about the project."

Office hours are 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Project team members can be reached by calling 608.884.1234.

you with information about this process when he or she meets with you.

Once a settlement figure has been reached, the negotiation agent will schedule a closing. In the event you have a mortgage or mortgages on your property, partial releases of mortgage will be required and the bank(s) may require that they be named on the check.

If you are unable to reach agreement for the value of what is being acquired, WisDOT will likely begin the process to acquire the necessary interests through the eminent domain process.

Real estate acquisition process for I-39/90 expansion project

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

As discussed in last month's newsletter, if part of your property is needed for the project, a negotiation agent will be assigned to work with you. After the area to be acquired is appraised, the agent will meet with you or your designated

representative to explain what needs to be purchased as well as WisDOT's offer for what is needed.

In the event you are dissatisfied with the offer, you may obtain a second appraisal from a qualified appraiser. In certain circumstances, WisDOT will reimburse you the actual and reasonable costs of obtaining that appraisal. The second appraisal may be considered during the course of negotiations to adjust the offering price. The agent will provide



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I-39/90 Expansion Project Newsletter

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Connect with us!

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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Sign up for email updates on the project website.

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