

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON THE
LOCATION, DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL, STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM CHANGE
AND INTERSTATE BRIDGE ASPECTS
FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 39/90 AND INTERSTATE 43/WISCONSIN STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY 81 BETWEEN
ILLINOIS 75 TO COUNTY HIGHWAY S AND CRANSTON ROAD TO
WISCONSIN STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY 140
ROCK COUNTY**

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are advised that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will hold a public hearing as provided by law to consider the location, design, environmental, Section 84.02 State Trunk Highway System change, and Section 84.12 interstate bridge aspects of the proposed improvement of Interstate Highway 39/90 and Interstate Highway 43/Wisconsin State Trunk Highway 81 including those aspects that may require application to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for the placement of fill materials into waters of the United States.

The purpose of the proposed I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange improvements is to upgrade the interchange to improve overall safety, meet current design standards, 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 project will provide a safe and efficient transportation system at the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange to serve existing and future traffic demands while minimizing disturbance to the surrounding environment.

The proposed project consists of reconstructing the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange. The project length totals 4.6 miles in the project area. The north-south leg of I-39/90 has a length of approximately 2.7 miles. The east-west leg of WIS 81/Milwaukee Road and I-43 has a length of approximately 1.9 miles. 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. It will also provide improved access to Gateway Business Park and maintains all other access to the Beloit urban area. The new I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange will include posted 65 mph free-flow movements 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 movements from I-39/90 southbound to I-43 northbound and from I-43 southbound to I-39/90 northbound.

The project will have right-of-way impacts in the project area. It is anticipated that 82 acres of land will be needed to build the preferred alternative. The project will include 0.6 acres of wetland impacts. 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.

Further information concerning the proposed improvement is available for review at the Department's Southwest Region Project Office, 111 Interstate Boulevard, Edgerton, WI 53534. Information can also be viewed on the I-39/90 Expansion Project website at www.i39-90.wi.gov, under the South segment.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at the Beloit Public Library (Community Room), 605 Eclipse Boulevard, Beloit, WI 53511. The public hearing will be conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Interested persons may attend anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to review displays and other hearing materials, ask questions, and provide testimony.

The traditional-style portion of the public hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will end when all interested persons have provided testimony or 7:30 p.m., whichever occurs last. The traditional-style portion of the public hearing will begin with an informational project presentation prior to accepting traditional-style testimony from the public.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Hearing impaired persons needing assistance should contact the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System (dial 711). To allow for arranging assistance, please call no later than three working days prior to the public hearing.

WisDOT project staff and representatives will be available for informal discussion to explain the proposed improvements and answer questions. Exhibits of the proposal will be on display and a statement about the proposed improvement will be available for review.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and to present relevant verbal and/or written testimony concerning the general location and detailed design aspects of the proposed improvement; the proposed change in the State Trunk Highway System in accordance with the provisions of Section 84.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the necessity of and the eligibility for construction of the proposed interstate bridge in accordance with the provisions of Section 84.12 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the social, economic, and environmental impacts and effects of the proposed improvement including those impacts and effects for which permit application to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers may be required pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act; and whether the improvement is or is not in the public interest and consistent with the goals and objectives of area planning. Land acquisition and schedules for construction will be discussed at the public hearing.

Information on relocation assistance will also be available. It is anticipated that the relocation of persons will occur as a result of the proposed improvement. Any person who feels that he or she may be thus affected by the proposed improvement may obtain relocation assistance information by contacting Jamie Brud at (608) 884-1225, located at the Department's Southwest Region Project Office in Edgerton, WI.

All interested persons are notified of the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment of the proposal's impacts and effects which has been prepared and filed according to the State and National Environmental Policy Acts. This document indicates that no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of this improvement. The Environmental Assessment is available for inspection and copying at the following locations:

*Southwest Region Project Office
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
111 Interstate Blvd
Edgerton, WI 53534
(document located by the front desk)

Hill Farms Building
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Ave.
Madison, WI 53707
(document located in the Library)

Beloit City Hall
100 State Street
Beloit, WI 53511

Beloit Public Library
605 Eclipse Boulevard
Beloit, WI 53511

*Printed copies of the draft document may be obtained at this location. There may be a charge for this service. An online copy can be viewed on the I-39/90 Expansion Project website, www.i39-90.wi.gov, under the Resources tab and Environmental section.

Persons with an interest in or knowledge about historical and archaeological resources in the project area are invited to present such information at the public hearing.

Provisions have been made for the submission of written statements or other exhibits in place of or in addition to the testimony presented at the public hearing.

The Department of Transportation will review all comments and testimony presented as part of this public hearing process and reserves the right to make a final determination on the proposed improvements as described in this notice.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation System Development