

# Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Thursday, January 24, 2013

5:30 – 7 p.m.

## **Attendees**

Bob Borremans, Ben Coopman, Dan Cunningham, Michele Carter, Sheila De Forest, Vincent Fisher, Alicia Griffin, Matt Grove, Barbara Hickman, Jim Jersild, Sue Jersild, Walter Knight, Paul Ndon, Jim Oeth, Kim Schauder, Lyndsey Svendsen, Stan Milam, Kurtis Linck, Lonna Mourney

## **Welcome and introduction of Attendees**

**Michele Carter** – WisDOT DBE Program Chief

Each member in attendance was asked to introduce themselves and the organization that they represented. Members ranged from elected officials, government representatives, community organizations, community residents, and WisDOT representatives (e.g., I-39/90 Corridor Project CMT members and DBE/OBOEC staffers). A total of 19 people were in attendance.

## **Agenda Review / Overview of Information Packet**

**Vincent Fisher** – Committee Facilitator

Vincent reviewed the contents of Rock County Stakeholder Committee Binder that was first distributed to Committee Members who attended the November 15, 2012. Binders with contents were distributed to individuals where January 24, 2013 was their first time attending the Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The new attendees were advised that they could expect to receive electronic copies of the content binders on January 25, 2013. These same electronic copies were sent to members attending the November 15, 2012 meeting.

The Binder Contents reviewed by Vincent Fisher include:

- November 15, 2015 Agenda
- The I-39/90 Project: Illinois state line to Madison, Dane and Rock County PowerPoint presentation
- I-39/90 South Segment Fact Sheet
- I-39/90 Central Segment Fact Sheet
- I-39/90 Corridor Project Location Map
- Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee (I-39/90 – South and Central Segments) Schedule and Timeline
- Summary of Steps of the Schedule and Timeline: Rock County Advisory Committee
- Monopoly Board (diagram)
- Path to Design (diagram)
- WisDOT Office of Business Outreach and Equity Compliance (OBOEC) Glossary of Terminology & Acronyms commonly used by WisDOT Civil Rights Staff and Project Managers in Stakeholder Meetings
- I-39/90 Rock County Stakeholders (DRAFT) list

Agendas for the January 24, 2013 meeting were distributed to attendees.

## **I-39/90 Corridor Project Overview Video (20 Minutes)**

**Kim Schauder** – WisDOT Southwest Region Project Supervisor

Kim submitted a video outlining the specifics of the I-39/90 Project including the Rock County segments (South Segment and Central Segment) and the Dane County segments (North Segment). At the conclusion of the video, Kim shared that the video could be viewed on Youtube and at the I-39/90 Project website.

Kim further shared new information pertaining to the progress of the I-39/90 project including:

- 511 System:
  - If snowing, check before leaving work, look at cameras
  - There will be an update to the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) this system with the addition of a number of cameras to the network. The northern Rock County area currently has no cameras. Improvement of the ITS Project will be seen throughout the entire I-39/90 Corridor
- The Rock County portion of the I-39/90 is primarily expansion of the median
- The Dane County portion of the I-39/90 will include an expansion to the right of way. It, though, will maintain its rural look.
- There will be an addition of Park and Rides. The excess of right of ways will accommodate the creation to accommodate these additions,
- Because of the extra lanes created as part of the expansion, there will be opportunities for more plowing. WisDOT is working with Rock County for the use of salt storage sheds
- The Racine Street project will be constructed this summer. This will include 2 roundabouts at the ramp terminals
- There will be a temporary widening from the State Line to Woodman Road
- Preparing for the future – doing grading
- The 2014 Construction Year
  - WisDOT is awaiting funding and are guaranteed that funds will be received
  - Alternate routes to have ready include County Highway G
- Interesting challenges
  - Highway 14/26 through Janesville, to put in 4 lanes
    - Collector distributor system
    - American Transmission Company (ATC) power poles to be moved, to be built in 2017
  - 43 Interchange – Interstate to Interstate connection
    - Come up with best design
    - Get their feedback

### **Committee Member Matt Grove *inquired***

WisDOT submitted a budget proposal with significant decreases which included a 30% proposed cut in major programs. This would seem to mean that it would not be possible to stay on schedule. His question was: 1) Would we be in the same funding and 2) Will those budget proposals impact the schedule.

### **Response by Kim**

We are not in jeopardy. WisDOT operates on a Biennium basis (e.g., every 2 years)

**Committee Member Walter Knight** asked Kim to repeat her statements on the I-39/90 Project specifically about Highway 43 and Roundabouts

Response by **Kim**

The project is system to system and interchange to interchange. She indicated that WisDOT will be working with FHWA.

## **Where Are We Now: Path to Design / Monopoly Board Opportunities and Barriers Analysis Part 1**

**Michele Carter** – WisDOT DBE Program Chief

Michele gave a brief overview of both the Path to Design and Monopoly Board pertaining to the I-39/90 Project. Her overview spoke about the projects ongoing job opportunity which includes mostly construction opportunities, roundabouts and traffic mitigation (e.g., how it will affect you and your travels).

### **Goals for Conducting these Meetings**

Michele shared that these meetings would/should encourage open dialogue. During the Opportunities and Barriers Analysis, Committee members will work toward that. The process of working through the group exercise will enable the members to gather results, categorize those results as a group, rank them and create strategies to meet the goals established.

Michelle further shared that is important that this Committee and its members maintain WisDOT's Mantra as it relates to the I-39/90 Corridor Project. That Mantra states that the project will be: 1) On Time, 2) On Budget and 3) Safety First.

### **Construction Opportunities and Expectations on the I-39/90 Corridor Project**

Michele indicated that the road construction industry means that people start at 5 or 6 in the morning. The work often is not in their own backyard which means it's required that they drive back and forth on the interchange to get where they work. This industry also runs on 10 to 12 hour days. These factors and the types of people that are being looked for are customary. It is traditional that this industry leans toward under-employed individual as opposed to unemployed individuals. This, of course, is based on the non-traditional work standards. The Road Construction industry which includes contractors, unions and WisDOT staffers are aware of and are accustomed to getting those people to WisDOT project work.

### **Small and Minority Business Opportunities on the I-39/90 Corridor Project**

Many small and/or minority owned business owners are unaware of or are not ready for the business opportunities that are available on construction-related projects. There are a number of certifications that classify small businesses (e.g., DBE, MBE, EBE, WBE, etc.). There are often challenges to obtaining work on road construction mega projects because they are so very large. This dilemma is sometimes, is sometimes handled by unbundling. Michele indicated that she will tell the committee members about how unbundling is managed at WisDOT at a later meeting.

Michele continued to share that the I-39/90 Corridor Project like any mega-project is a starting from scratch syndrome. Which means that although you must look at what's already here, you can't assume that what's in Milwaukee will come to Rock County.

Michele recalled that years ago, WisDOT worked with the Rock County OIC in the Janesville Area. She indicated that an assessment will be done about what's going on here. This assessment will help WisDOT and the Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee to figure out how to work together and to partner.

Michele concluded that government is a tool and a resource. Although it can help, it can't make someone hire anyone. WisDOT and this Committee will be able to:

1. Ask contractors what their needs are. And further inform them, that WisDOT and its partners are here to help them.
2. The Stakeholders of this Committee will help determine what each entity can do (e.g., government, community organizations and industry stakeholders). Matt Grove of the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association (WTBA) is an example of those assisting in this regard.
3. The reason for these meetings is that WisDOT doesn't really know what's going on in the community
4. There will be a budget Impact that will occur in June 2013. WisDOT will keep talking to the Rock County Stakeholder Committee Members as to know how this impacts the community and project. This, of course, will be in the hopes that this information will be passed on to the constituents that they represent. This will be our attempt at encouraging two-way communication.

### **Opportunities and Barriers: A Group Exercise (Part 1)**

This exercise was facilitated by Michele Carter. The question was asked and stakeholders wrote their response on a post-it-note. Once completed, the post-it-note was placed a white sheet at the front of the conference room. Michele then shared the information placed on the post-it-notes.

## **Stakeholder**

1. **Fill in the blank: As long as WisDOT does something about \_\_\_\_\_, I will consider the project positive and successful."**

### Post-it-Note Responses

- Traffic
- Maintenance once it's done (WisDOT doesn't forget Rock County)  
Have talent work in Rock County and stay in Rock County
- Reducing congestion
- Keeping training through TrANS Program (Labor development)
- Enabling Beloit contractors
- WisDOT does something about roundabouts
- WisDOT does something about crop circles (e.g., roundabouts)
- Listening to local concerns, working with local units of government
- Consider job opportunities for local workers
- Increasing job growth in Rock County
- Staying on schedule
- Congestion and safety
- Keeping traffic flowing safety throughout the project

## Resources

2. **What are you (individual, organization, firm) able and/or willing to contribute to this effort (stakeholder committee) to compel WisDOT to implement actions or programs for Rock County to benefit from our transportation-related opportunities?**

### Post-it-Note Responses

- Share information
- Support the Trans Program and help with training
- Offer connections – Communications, SCETA (career academy) – e.g., Beloit training
- Engaging Rock County business community to tell them why they should care about the project
- Website for training new people
- Industry knowledge and training
- Communicate with others regarding the project
- Lobby
- Funding
- Information
- Assistance with environmental laws
- Workforce development with training and funding
- (Amy) Beloit needs to be focused (so much is on Rock County and Beloit is left out ) Beloit as highest unemployment, huge population are low income, minority groups – left out again and again

Michele shared that WisDOT can't segment and leave people out (e.g., women and minorities). However, training can be targeted.

3. **Identify key people or resources that WisDOT needs to include (communicate with, correspond with, meet with, report to., etc.) to ensure that the barriers and challenges to fulfilling construction-related opportunities are addressed in a way that benefits Rock County?**

Michele gave some examples of items to be included

- Correspond with
- Mailing list
- Report to list of decision makers
- Who's not hear – group needs to hear this, we need to give them information (we can extend our list)
- There were 30 members last time, new people this time, conference line, newsletter

## Verbal Responses

- Rock County Job Center
- Contractors and Unions
- Business community
- Media (non-traditional) SW Workforce Development (Bob Borremans)
- It is important to send a positive message and let people be at the table to understand how it will benefit them (Matt Grove)
  - Make community aware of what's available and happening (e.g., Local Vision)
- Rock/Walworth Community Action Inc. representative
- Beloit Community Ministers Community – Sherrick Anderson
- Blackhawk Technical Career Counselors
- Social Service Agencies
  - Job Centers
  - Job Seeking entities (serving dislocated workers)
    - Rock County Job Center
- Meet with Business Groups, Chambers and Rotaries (4 or 5), including the Greater Beloit Chamber
- Labor Unions – Women and Minority available
- Heidi Carven, Stateline Career Line Technical Information Academy (confirm)
- Mark Perry
- Steve McNeil, School System of Beloit
- Large corporations
  - Example: Granger (they make decisions on current employees)
    - A distribution center right off the highway.
    - They strategically place their distribution center
      - Provides easier access
    - Use of media
    - Maintaining network will be awfully important
    - They need to understand that this is a priority
    - Need to be assured that this will be maintained
    - Milwaukee project – kiosks were used

## **Opportunities and Strengths – Labor**

- 4. Please list the opportunities and strengths that WisDOT must build upon to facilitate labor opportunities for Rock County (examples: construction trainers, jobseeker resources, employer advocates)?**

### **Michele suggestions**

- Technical college, years ago, would do all the training for the unions. Now, unions are doing it independently.
- Construction related training – Workforce development (anyone doing)
- Helpful – some level of pre-screening (drivers' license and work ethic)
- TRANS targets under-employed instead of unemployed - \$7 - \$30
- Don't ignore unemployed

- Manpower – short-termed and highly focused
- Community Action
- Blackhawk Technical College
- Local initiatives to hire local

Michele suggested that the items that were discussed at this meeting as well as the other questions that were included in the exercise; but, were unable to be discussed can be thought about by Rock County Stakeholders. Prior to the next meeting, any ideas can be sent to Alicia Griffin, the I-39/90 DBE Outreach Liaison. Alicia can be contacted by simply replying the Stakeholder Committee invitation. (For convenience sake, her email is added to the minutes: [Alicia@scomwi.com](mailto:Alicia@scomwi.com)) NOTE: Opportunities and Barriers Questions are an attachment on the January 24, 2013 electronic meeting invitation in addition to being distributed at the meeting.

### **Review Stakeholder Committee Members' Schedule and Timeline** **And Upcoming Meeting Dates Information**

**Michele Carter** – WisDOT DBE Program Chief

A discussion was held about what would be the best regularly scheduled day of the week and time of day that the Rock County Stakeholder Committee should be held. The results of the discussion included possibly the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, a 3:30 p.m. start time as well as the current 5:30 p.m. start time.

It was decided that a survey would be sent out to the members of the Rock County Stakeholder Committee in order to get a consensus about what best meets Committee members' schedules and timelines.

Alicia Griffin indicated that members should expect to receive an electronic survey no later than the end of business February 1, 2013.