



# Wisconsin Department of Transportation



## Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Community Action Inc., 20 Eclipse Center (600 Henry Avenue) Beloit, WI  
Tuesday; August 1, 2017, 4 p.m.

### Present:

Vincent Fisher, WisDOT  
Jenna Fogarty, WisDOT  
Julie Harkinson, Harkinson Consulting LLC  
Tracy Jallah, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development  
Ian Johnson, Hoffman Construction  
Lynn Jones, Community Action  
Lorie Miller, Forward Service  
Jennifer Marks, Forward Service  
Signe Reichelt, Behnke Materials Engineering  
Steven Theisen, WisDOT  
Megan Vaxman, Rock Road Companies, Inc  
Kelly Wenzel, Rock Road Companies, Inc  
Crystal Wilson, Harkinson Consulting LLC

### Agenda Items:

- Meeting Agenda
- Review of meeting minutes
- Construction Project updates

### Discussion:

1. Introduction:  
Vincent Fisher provided an overview of the agenda and a description of the purpose of the meeting. Crystal Wilson reviewed meeting minute highlights from May 2, 2017.
2. Steven Theisen: He provided a project status update on the ongoing construction. He reported Stateline Bridge, and the temporary widening between Highway S and Stateline will be finishing up work around Labor Day. The Hart Road Bridge repair work was completed last week. Highway 14 interchange to Highway O to South Racine Street in Janesville work will begin around Labor Day. Beginning next Spring of 2018 the full mainline construction work for Hart Road up to Highway 14 will begin with a completion year of 2020. The current northbound construction work from Edgerton up to Madison will complete around Thanksgiving of 2017. The project will start up again in 2018 and the traffic from Edgerton to Madison will be shifted to the northbound side of the highway, and the construction for the southbound side will begin. The Rock River bridge work will continue through summer of 2018, the Stateline, Highway AB and Maple Grove Bridge work will be completed fall 2017. For the Beloit area, the I-43 interchange preliminary operations will begin Spring of 2018, and core interchange construction work will begin in 2019. WisDOT will be meeting with Beloit partners about DOT's "In This Together Program," so businesses and the local communities can be provided tips and tools on ways to survive and thrive during the construction. Conversation and meetings will begin August 17, 2017 and will continue throughout the project and possibly after. WisDOT will be communicating updates and construction information through newsletters, time-lapse videos, email, and Facebook. All construction updates for closures, public meetings, or any other updates that pertain to the construction will be communicated through the 511 website. WisDOT encourages the public to sign up to receive email updates. All lane closures are during 8:00 PM-5:00 AM Monday through Friday, and occasionally Friday nights starting at 10:00 PM-7:00 AM. During holidays and weekends all lanes are typically open.
3. Signe Reichelt: A DBE spotlight time in the meeting was provided to Reichelt, majority owner of a newly certified DBE firm, Behnke Materials Engineering, to share her experience becoming DBE certified through WisDOT. Behnke Materials Engineering is currently agency focused, and has multiple contracts with WisDOT, including the testing for the bridge beams on the I39-90 project. Recently Behnke Materials has subcontracted through AECOM for work on the Alliant Energy power plant in Beloit. In addition Reichelt mentioned that they have reached out to Blackhawk Technical College to recruit potential employees, and is interested in utilizing the TRANS program.



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4. Vincent Fisher: Vincent expressed that the Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee group has always promoted opportunity for labor and businesses growth in Rock County. Since Harkinson Consulting has come on board, with Crystal Wilson as the DBE Outreach Coordinator, she has worked with business to encourage them to become DBE certified and for local business to consider bidding for work on the I-39/90 project. Behnke Material Engineering is one of many firms Harkinson has worked with on DBE certification. While there have been many challenges within the process of reaching out to business in the community, Harkinson continues to educate business owners of opportunities and networking with businesses, chambers, and other community members throughout Rock County.
5. Jennifer Fogarty: She provided a summary of the Mega Project Workforce Utilization Report – Head Count. The report gives an all-encompassing look at the head count of apprentices that have worked on the mega project by classification, and demographics of the individual male, female and ethnicity for the length of the project. The current national female engagement goal is set at 6.9% per the US Department of Labor. Jenna also provided a summary of the Geographical Analysis Report for the Southwest region, although this particular report is not specific to the SW Mega project it provides coverage of the apprentices that are working within the different Zip codes in the SW Region.
6. Tracy Jallah: Tracy discussed with the group what reports were needed from Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The Stakeholders expressed their desire for reports to show comparable data from Green, Rock, and Walworth counties reflecting a running total of apprenticeship data quarterly. It was agreed that going forward reports should be provided a week prior to the Rock County Stakeholders Advisory Committee meeting. Tracy also reported there have been additional funds from federal and local sources to advance apprenticeship in manufacturing. DWD will be working with Blackhawk Technical College located in Milton to pioneer apprenticeship programs for manufacturing, mechatronics, electricians, maintenance, welding, healthcare, finance, and the IT industries.
7. Lorie Miller: Forward Services Corp. provided the SW Replacement report and the TrANS Coordinator Replacement Report. These reports showed the individuals who were placed with companies in the Rock and Dane County area. In Rock County there have been 58 total TrANS graduates from June 2016 to June 2017. Miller explained Forward Services provides ongoing supportive services indefinitely for TrANS graduates. In the current Rock County TrANS class there were 10 students attending, but only four are available for hire due to the others already being placed with contractors. Because of the emphasis placed at the beginning of the interview process and informing students this work involves travel they are more prepared and willing to travel for this type of work. Lorie explained that the typical schedule for TrANS classes is Monday through Friday. The class time is unpaid and the class schedule varies by location. Forward Services works with students to make flexible class schedules to allow for full participation.
8. Vincent Fisher: Vincent provided the most recent Letting Schedule for upcoming construction work opportunities.
9. Announcements:
  - 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual DBE Golden Shovel Awards event will be February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> of 2018
  - Wisconsin Tribal Conference will be held November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> of 2017
  - JP Cullen has a construction career fair coming up October 16, 2017 8:30AM-2Pm at 330 East Delavan Drive Janesville, WI and questions they can be reached at 608-754-6601
  - Community Action has recently purchased Merrill Community Center and has additional space available for programs and training
  - RCSM members were encouraged by Crystal Wilson to give references of local business they know who may benefit from becoming DBE certified. Crystal can be contacted at [crystal.wilson@dot.wi.gov](mailto:crystal.wilson@dot.wi.gov), phone: 608-709-6244.

**Adjourned 5:30**

**Next meeting: November 7, 2017**