PROJECT ID 1440-13/15-00 FHWA-WI-EIS-04-03-LS SD
WISCONSIN STATE HIGHWAY 23
FOND DU LAC to PLYMOUTH
FOND DU LAC AND SHEBOYGAN COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

LIMITED SCOPE SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
And Section 4(f) Evaluation
Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c) and 49 U.S.C. 303
By the
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
and
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

COOPERATING AGENCY
U.S. Army ~~Corps~~ of Engineers (pursuant to 33 CFR 230)

APPROVALS

7-8-2013
Date ~~For Federal Highway~~ Administration

7/8/2013
Date For Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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FHWA will issue a single Limited Scope Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision document pursuant to Pub. L. 112-141, 126 Stat. 405, Section 1319(b) unless FHWA determines statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of the combined document pursuant to Section 1319.

ABSTRACT

Wisconsin Highway 23 is part of the National Highway System (NHS) and is a rural principal arterial that connects Fond du Lac and Sheboygan in east central Wisconsin. Both west and east ends of the project are located in the growing urban areas of Fond du Lac and Plymouth. Nearly 20 miles in length, this highway corridor serves high traffic volumes near the urban areas and lower traffic volumes in rural areas. This document evaluates the No- Build Alternative, several Build Alternatives, and a series of corridor preservation alternatives for future transportation improvements. The Preferred Build Alternative reconstructs WIS 23 to a 4-lane divided highway on the existing alignment and creates interchanges, connector roads, and a trail. Corridor preservation alternatives evaluate areas needed for future interchanges, overpasses, and connector roads as well as the US 151/WIS 23 interchange.

FHWA and WisDOT have prepared this Limited Scope Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LS SDEIS) in accordance with Title 23, Part 771.130 (f) of the Code of Federal Regulations (23 CFR 771.130). This LS SDEIS is used to address issues of limited scope associated with the overall project. These issues are as follows:

- Updating and clarifying portions of the original Purpose and Need.
- Enhancing and clarifying the discussion of alternatives that do not include capacity expansion.
- Clarifying the discussion of impacts to Section 4(f) resources and reconsidering determinations on three of those resources.
- Revising, updating, and clarifying the ICE analysis.
- Seeking additional public involvement and offering a hybrid style public hearing.

Comments on this Limited Scope Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement are due by September 30, 2013 or 60 days after the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register, whichever is later, and should be sent to:

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT STATEMENT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC 4321-4347, became effective January 1, 1970. This law requires that all federal agencies have prepared for every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is therefore required to have prepared an EIS on proposals that are funded under its authority if the proposal is determined to be a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

EISs are required for many transportation projects as outlined in NEPA. This Limited Scope Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement will follow the same procedure as a normally prepared EIS. The processing of an EIS is carried out in two stages. Draft EISs are first written and forwarded for review and comment to federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise and are made available to the public. This availability to the public must occur at least 15 days before the public hearing and no later than the time of the first public hearing notice or notice of opportunity for a hearing. Normally, 45 days plus mailing time will be allowed for comments to be made on the Draft EIS unless a time extension is granted by the Bureau of Technical Services (Wisconsin Department of Transportation). Supplemental Draft EISs are prepared whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the DEIS [40 CFR 1502.9(c)]. They have the same review period and hearing requirements as a Draft EIS. After this period has elapsed for a Draft EIS or Supplement Draft EIS, preparation of the Final EIS can begin.

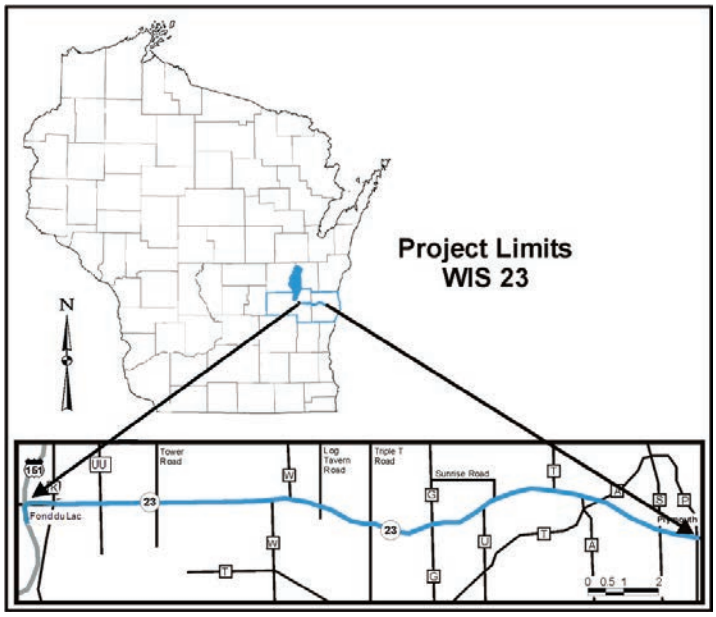
1. Basic content of the Draft Statement (or Supplemental Draft Statement), as amended, due to internal agency comments, editing, additional alternatives being considered, and changes due to the time lag between the Draft, Supplemental Draft, and Final EIS.
2. Summary of public hearing environmental comments.
3. Copies of comments received on the Draft Statement or Supplemental Draft Statement.
4. Evaluation and disposition of each substantive comment.

The Draft, Supplemental Draft, and Final EIS are full-disclosure documents, which provide a full description of the proposed project, the existing environment, and an analysis of the anticipated beneficial or adverse environmental effects.

The name, address, and telephone number of the individual from whom additional information can be obtained is listed on the cover of this document.

GENERAL REVIEWER INFORMATION

This LS SDEIS has been combined with the original 2010 FEIS for ease of review. Original 2010 FEIS text is shown in black. Items that are considered revisions that target specifically identified issues in the January 19, 2012 Notice of Intent to prepare an LS EIS are shown in blue text. This document has also been updated to reflect changes to data, policies, or conditions since the 2010 FEIS was published. These updates are shown in maroon text. In addition, for ease of review, a summary of changes is provided at the beginning of each section.



Project Location
Project 1440-13/15-00
WIS 23
Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY