

Public Hearing Handout

Public Hearing for Environmental Assessment Re-Evaluation

**Business 51 (Post Road)
WIS 54/County B to Minnesota Avenue
Portage County
WisDOT Project I.D.: 6414-00-07
(EA Re-Evaluation of the EA/FONSI for Project I.D. 6414-00-05)**

Plover Municipal Center

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 5 to 7:30 p.m.
(Public hearing presentation will begin at 6 p.m.)



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Welcome

Thank you for attending today’s public hearing for the Environmental Assessment Re-evaluation (EA Re-evaluation) of the proposed Business 51 (Post Road) reconstruction project. This public hearing provides you the opportunity to give testimony on the EA Re-evaluation, which contains information regarding proposed transportation improvements to the Business 51 (Post Road) corridor.

Public Hearing Agenda

Time	Item
5 p.m.	Sign in, pick up handout, review exhibits, visit with project staff and ask questions about the proposed improvements.
	Important – Determine if you will be providing testimony. If so, determine which option(s) and follow the instructions*.
	Availability to provide Private Verbal Testimony* and Written Testimony* begins. Both options are available until the end of the hearing.
6 p.m.	Project presentation
Approx. 6:30 p.m.	Public Verbal Testimony* option begins upon completion of project presentation.
	Opportunity to review exhibits and visit with project staff continues.
7:30 p.m.	Public Hearing ends.
	Written (mail or e-mail) Testimony* available until May 29, 2014 .

*See the following “Options and Instructions for Providing Testimony”

Options and Instructions for Providing Testimony

There are several options for providing testimony. Your testimony will be reviewed and considered by WisDOT and FHWA as part of the EA Re-evaluation process. **Testimony should be limited to tonight’s public hearing aspects, and statements or opinions about the project.** Provide comments on the alternative(s) you support or oppose and your reasons. Questions related to the project can be directed to project staff during informal discussions, but will not be recorded by the court reporter or included in the public hearing record.

The formal hearing is the time to provide testimony. Questions will not be answered during this time.

Private Verbal Testimony

If you prefer to make a statement privately to the court reporter, rather than in front of an audience, this option is available from 5 to 7:30 p.m. You are also encouraged to attend the project presentation that is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Follow the signs or ask for directions to the location for providing private verbal testimony. Provide the court reporter with your completed “Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony” (included in this handout packet), state your name, address, and if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. Then give the court reporter your testimony.

Public Verbal Testimony

After the project presentation at 6 p.m., public verbal testimony will be accepted. Complete a “Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony” (included in this handout packet). Give it to designated project staff anytime before, during or immediately following the project presentation. Your name will be called in the order the registration slips are received. When you are called to the microphone to provide testimony, please state your name, address and, if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. Please limit your testimony to approximately 3 minutes to allow time for others to provide their testimony. You can publicly testify again after others wishing to testify have done so. Public verbal testimony will continue until everyone interested in providing testimony has had the opportunity to do so or until the public hearing ends at 7:30 p.m., whichever comes first.

Written Testimony

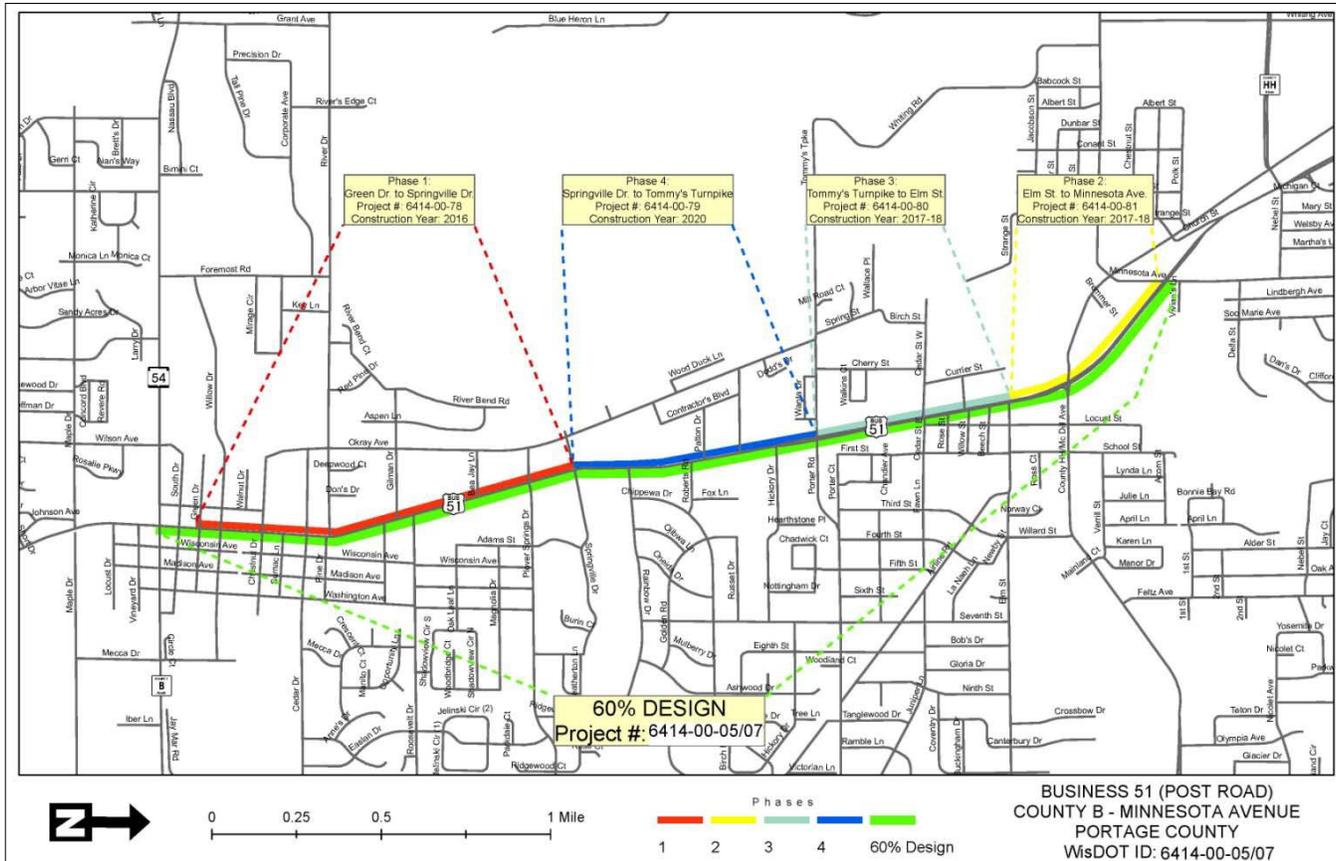
You may provide written testimony in addition to, or in place of, verbal testimony. Complete the “Written Testimony Form” (included in this handout packet). You may also use your own stationary. Include your name, address and, if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. If you prepared written testimony prior to the public hearing, you may submit that also. There are two options for submitting your written testimony:

Submit Tonight: Complete the Written Testimony Form and place the form along with any other supporting documentation in the box located at the sign-in table.

OR

Mail: You may prefer this option if you would like additional time to organize your thoughts/testimony. The Written Testimony Form is pre-addressed. You may also send written testimony via e-mail. See “WisDOT Contact Information” on Page 10 of this handout. Mailed or e-mailed testimony must be postmarked or received no later than **May 29, 2014** to be included in the official public hearing record.

Project Location Map



Purpose of the Public Hearing

The objective of the public hearing and environmental document availability period is to obtain public opinion regarding the project aspects listed in this handout on the record. Testimony provided during the public hearing and during the environmental document availability period will be considered along with all other judgments and opinions received before further decisions are made on the proposed project alternatives. This public hearing includes a project presentation and opportunities to provide public/private verbal testimony to a court reporter and/or written testimony. All testimony will be entered into the public hearing record along with other public hearing presentations, exhibits and materials.

This public hearing will focus on the following aspects of the proposed Business 51 (Post Road) project:

- The location and design features of the proposed improvements.
- The National and Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act public hearing process, as applicable, on projects which include preparation of an environmental document. The final EA Re-evaluation prepared following this public hearing will be the decision document for the proposed improvements. Copies of the EA Re-evaluation are available for review at this public hearing.

Information for the Public Hearing Record

In addition to the testimony provided at this public hearing, all exhibits, handouts, audio/visual presentations and displays available for viewing at the public hearing will be included in the official public hearing record. Page 9 of this handout contains a complete listing of these materials. Other materials, along with additional written testimony received after the public hearing, will be added to the official public hearing record provided they are postmarked or received no later than **May 29, 2014**.

Project Statement

WisDOT proposes to reconstruct 3.5 miles of Business 51 (Post Road) from WIS 54/County B to Minnesota Avenue in the villages of Plover and Whiting from a four-lane, undivided urban arterial to a four-lane, divided arterial with a raised median and bicycle accommodations.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Business 51 (Post Road) Reconstruction Project were approved by FHWA on August 2, 2009. The WisDOT project I.D. for the EA/FONSI is 6414-00-05. The EA/FONSI can be found in the WisDOT North Central Region office at 1681 Second Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-4768. Current design for Business 51 was initiated in 2011 under project I.D. 6414-00-07. The project limits and overall scope of the project have remained the same for both projects. For the balance of this document, the following terms will be used:

- EA/FONSI – Refers to project I.D. 6414-00-05
- EA Re-evaluation – Refers to project I.D. 6414-00-07

The EA/FONSI process and documentation started in the early 2000s. Since the EA/FONSI, there have been new requirements and changes regarding previous requirements. Additionally, there have been updates and refinements to the plans resulting in additional effects. Therefore, the EA/FONSI has been reviewed in detail along with the applicability of current requirements to determine whether supplemental environmental documentation would need to be prepared and circulated for review and comment.

The EA/FONSI identified Alternative 3 as the Preferred Alternative for Business 51 which proposed to reconstruct Business 51 with two traffic lanes in each direction, a raised median wide enough to provide dedicated left-turn lanes and U-turns, sidewalks and on-street bike lanes along both sides of the street. As stated in the EA/FONSI, the proposed improvements would reduce turning conflicts at driveways and cross streets, and would improve access for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. It would allow for the construction of dedicated left-turn lanes and provide a safe pedestrian refuge in the center of the roadway at signalized and non-signalized intersections.

The EA/FONSI Preferred Alternative remains the same in the EA Re-evaluation. However, design refinements resulted in minor changes. Improvements in the EA Re-evaluation still include two 12-foot lanes in each direction, a raised median with dedicated left-turn lanes, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

The EA Re-evaluation focuses on design refinements/changes from the EA/FONSI. These refinements/changes are summarized as follows:

- Limits: The proposed project study area is Business 51 from County B to Minnesota Avenue. The logical termini have not changed from the original EA. However, construction/improvements will occur from Green Drive north to Minnesota Avenue.
- The project has been the subject of design refinements based on the public involvement process, alternative analysis and stakeholder input since the signing of the EA/FONSI in 2009. Because of these design refinements, several changes have occurred related to the following:
 - Changes to property access have been made to improve safety and further reduce the number of access points along the corridor.
 - An additional 7.31 acres of right of way are required for the project. Approximately 1.49 acres is needed for vision triangles, 3.44 acres for stormwater management ponds and 2.38 acres for roadway design refinements.
 - Seven additional property relocations/acquisitions are now included in the project due to design refinements and vision triangles.
 - As a department action, the project is subject to Chapter Trans 401, Wis. Adm. Code, Construction Site Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Procedures for Department Actions. Additionally, the area surrounding the project is subject to Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Municipal Stormwater Discharge permits under Wisconsin Administrative Code, NR 216.
 - These state regulations relate to both stormwater runoff quantity and quality and specifically Chapter Trans 401, Wis. Adm. Code requires the WisDOT to address stormwater quality on projects WisDOT administers. Due to the applicable stormwater runoff quality regulations, changes to the initial design were necessary. These changes required the incorporation of four new stormwater management ponds into the project design.
- Recreational Land Impacts (Converting parkland to highway right of way)
 - Veterans Memorial Park: The project will require 0.012 acres of permanent right of way for sidewalk improvements adjacent to the park along Roosevelt Drive. Approximately 0.111 acres of temporary limited easement will be required along School Drive, Business 51, and Roosevelt Drive during construction.
 - Springville Pond Park and Green Circle Trail: There would no additional impacts beyond what was described in the original EA/FONSI for either resource. A total of 0.022 acres of permanent right of way is required for sidewalk improvements adjacent to the park on Springville Drive.

Project Phases

The Business 51 corridor will be divided into four separate phases for final design and construction purposes. Each phase has a unique final design I.D. and construction I.D.; however, many elements of each project were designed at once for a consistent outcome throughout the corridor. Preliminary design for all projects within the corridor is being completed under the preliminary design I.D. 6414-00-07. Each phase, along with its corresponding design/construction I.D. is provided in the table below in order of proposed construction.

Phase	Limits	Preliminary Design ID	Design/Construction ID
Phase 1	Green Drive to Springville Drive	6414-00-07	6414-00-08/78
Phase 2	Elm Street to Minnesota Avenue	6414-00-07	6414-00-11/81
Phase 3	Tommy's Turnpike to Elm Street	6414-00-07	6414-00-10/80
Phase 4	Springville Drive to Tommy's Turnpike	6414-00-07	6414-00-09/79

Jurisdictional Transfer

Upon project completion, the ownership of the stormwater facilities, along with the roadway itself, will be a Jurisdictional Transfer (JT) from WisDOT to the villages of Plover and Whiting. Section 84.02(8) of the Wisconsin Statutes enables the State to enter into JT agreements with local units of government. Because of the roadway JT, the stormwater facilities are necessary to keep both villages in compliance with their WPDES Municipal Stormwater Discharge permits.

Environmental Justice

An Environmental Justice Analysis (EJA) was completed and is included in the EA Re-evaluation document that is available for review at the public hearing. The purpose of the EJA is to identify minority, low-income, and senior (over age 65) populations in the study area. The purpose is also to assess potential impacts on these populations and determine whether or not they are adversely high and disproportionate. This was accomplished through analysis of U.S. Census data as well as outreach and interviews with potential minority-owned businesses and businesses/services that serve environmental justice populations along the corridor.

Property Acquisition/Relocation Assistance and Benefits

Seven additional property acquisitions/relocations have been identified (two (2) residential and five (5) businesses) since the completion of the EA/FONSI in 2009. These additional acquisition/relocations are discussed in the EA Re-evaluation.

Before any property acquisition activities are initiated, members of the Region Real Estate staff will contact the property owner(s) to explain the details of the acquisition process and Wisconsin's Eminent Domain Law. All (any) properties to be acquired will be inspected and appraised by one or more professional appraisers. The property owner will be asked to accompany the appraiser during inspection of the property to be acquired, to assure that its value is recognized in the appraisal. Based upon the appraisal or appraisals made, the fair market value of the property to be acquired will be determined, and that amount will be offered to the owner.

Relocation assistance will be made available to anyone displaced by this project. In this regard, a search of available housing and businesses locations was made on March 11, 2014. This search indicates that there will be sufficient replacement housing and business locations available in the

project vicinity at the time of the proposed relocations, within the means of the relocatees and meeting the requirements for replacement housing and businesses.

The "Relocation Assistance" brochure made available at this public hearing has been prepared to answer many of the general questions frequently asked concerning relocation assistance. Note that in addition to the cost of replacement (housing, business locations, etc.), additional monies are available to cover moving expenses, increased rental and mortgage payments and interest rates, and any closing costs incurred.

It is emphasized that no person shall be displaced unless a comparable and/or adequate replacement (dwelling, business location, etc.) has been provided or made available. In the event a relocated person is dissatisfied with the decision as to eligibility for payments or amounts offered under the relocation assistance program, he or she will be promptly advised of the procedure to follow in making an appeal.

Information about land acquisitions, relocation assistance, and schedules for construction will also be available at the public hearing. Any person may obtain relocation assistance from project staff at the public hearing or by contacting the department's real estate staff listed on Page 10.

Next Steps/Project Schedule

At the end of the EA Re-evaluation availability period (**May 29, 2014**), the project team will review and consider all public hearing testimony received on the EA Re-evaluation. Upcoming milestones in completing the engineering and environmental study for the Business 51 (Post Road) reconstruction project include the following:

- EA Re-evaluation completion – Summer 2014
- Phase 1 Construction (Green Drive to Springville Drive) – 2016
- Phase 2 Construction (Elm Street to Minnesota Avenue) – 2017/2018
- Phase 3 Construction (Tommy's Turnpike to Elm Street) – 2017/2018
- Phase 4 Construction (Springville Drive to Tommy's Turnpike) – 2020

Description of Public Hearing Exhibits

- Public Hearing Notice
- Hearing Handout
- Exhibit Maps
- Draft Environmental Assessment Re-evaluation (2014)
- Environmental Assessment/FONSI (2009)
- Wisconsin Relocation Rights for Residential Properties (brochure)
- Landowners Rights under Wisconsin Eminent Domain Law (brochure)

PowerPoint Presentation

WisDOT is providing a brief PowerPoint presentation as part of the traditional-style portion of this public hearing to update the public on the proposed project alternatives and to explain the public hearing process.

Contact Information

Submittal of written testimony or general project questions

Additional written public hearing testimony on the EA Re-evaluation after this public hearing should be sent to the WisDOT project supervisor at the address or e-mail address given below. Additional testimony will be added to the official public hearing record and considered in the final environmental document -- provided it is postmarked or received no later than **May 29, 2014**.

Michael Kretschmer
WisDOT – North Central Region
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
(715) 421-8096
Michael.Kretschmer@dot.wi.gov

Property acquisition/relocation questions

Questions specific to property acquisition and/or relocations of homes and businesses can be most efficiently answered by real estate staff.

Jay Viste
WisDOT
944 Vanderperren Way
Green Bay, WI 54304
(920) 492-7715
EJay.Viste@dot.wi.gov

Fold here

Place
Stamp
Here

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Attn: Michael Kretschmer

1681 Second Avenue South

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Fold here and staple to mail

Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony



Business 51 (Post Road)
Portage County
WisDOT ID: 6414-00-07
Public Hearing
Plover Municipal Center
Wednesday, May 14, 2014

This registration slip may be used for providing public or private verbal testimony. Following the project presentation at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, public verbal testimony will take place. Complete this registration slip and submit it to a project team representative during or immediately following the presentation. Your name will be called in the order registration slips are received. When you are called to the microphone to provide testimony, please state your name, address, and who you represent if applicable (for example a business). Please speak slowly and clearly. A court reporter will record your testimony. Please limit your testimony to comments and/or opinions regarding the proposed project aspects for which this public hearing is being conducted. To allow everyone a chance to speak, please limit your testimony to approximately 3 minutes.

The same process applies for providing private verbal testimony. Present this slip directly to the court reporter to provide your private verbal testimony.

If you do not want to provide verbal testimony, but would like to use this registration slip to record your position on the alternatives being considered at the public hearing, please check the applicable boxes below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

If applicable - group, organization, or business you are representing:

- I would like to provide verbal testimony.**
- I do not want to provide verbal testimony, but please record my position on the alternatives being considered at the public hearing:**

Support, describe:

Do Not Support, describe:

