

# Hearing Handout Packet

## Public Hearing

### WIS 21 Access Management Study

**Juneau County line – Coloma  
Adams and Waushara counties**

Study ID 6160-00-29 (Adams County segment)  
Study ID 6170-00-29 (Waushara County segment)



#### Opportunities for Public Hearing

**February 27, 2017  
5 to 7 p.m.  
Strong's Prairie Town Hall  
Arkdale, WI**

**March 8, 2017  
5 to 7 p.m.  
Anna Follett Community Center  
Coloma, WI**

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# Welcome

Thank you for attending today’s public hearing for the WIS 21 access management study. This public hearing provides you the opportunity to give testimony on the access management proposal we are developing under Wisconsin State Statute 84.25.

## Public Hearing Agenda

Time	Item
5 to 7 p.m.	Sign in, pick up handout, review exhibits, visit with staff and ask questions about the proposed action.
	<b>Important</b> – Determine if you will be providing testimony. If so, determine which option(s) and follow the instructions*.
5 p.m.	Availability to provide <b>Private Verbal Testimony*</b> and <b>Written Testimony*</b> begins. Both options are available until the end of the public hearing.
5:15 p.m.	<b>Public Verbal Testimony*</b> option begins upon completion of reading of the study statement.
	Opportunity to review exhibits and visit with staff continues.
7 p.m.	Public Hearing ends.
	<b>Written (mail in and email) testimony*</b> available until March 22, 2017

\*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 as part of the process for implementing access management along WIS 21. **Testimony should be limited to tonight’s public hearing aspects (see Page 6), and statements or opinions about the study.**

Questions related to the study can be directed to study staff during the informal discussions, but will not be recorded by the court reporter or included in the public hearing record.

### Private Verbal Testimony

This option may be preferred if you wish to make your statement privately to the court reporter rather than in front of an audience. This option is available during the entire public hearing from 5 to 7 p.m. You are also encouraged to attend the study statement presentation starting at 5:15 p.m.

- Follow the signs or ask for directions to the location for providing private verbal testimony.
- Wait for an opening, 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.
- Give the court reporter your testimony.

## **Public Verbal Testimony**

Following the study statement presentation at 5:15 p.m., public verbal testimony will be accepted.

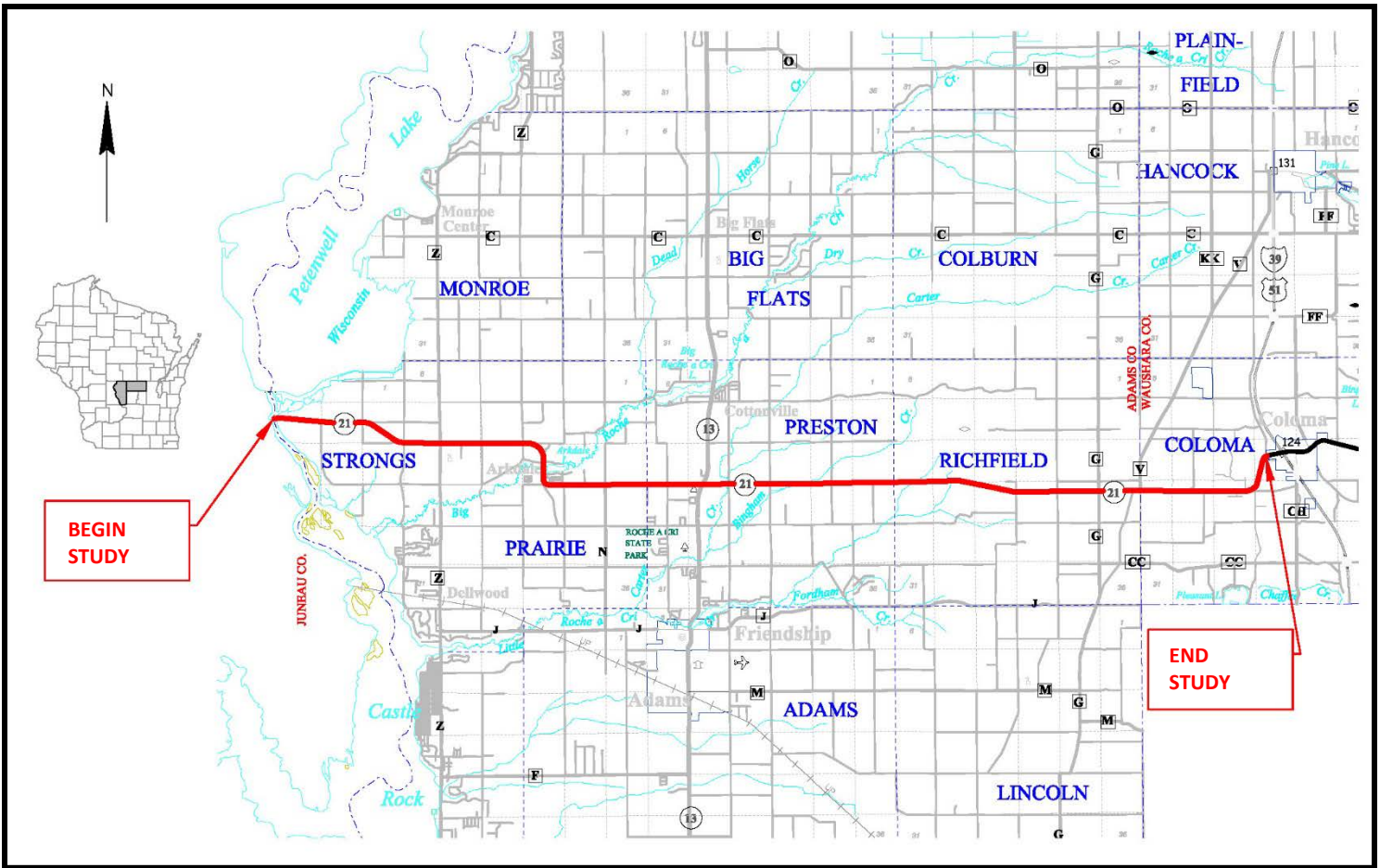
- Complete a “Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony” included in this handout packet. Give it to the designated staff any time before, during or immediately following the study presentation.
- Your name will be called in the order the registration slips are received.
- When you are called to the front of the room 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 5 minutes to allow time for others to provide their testimony in public. You can testify again as part of the public verbal testimony 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 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.
- You may also submit any written testimony prepared prior to the public hearing.
- There are two options for submitting your written testimony:
  1. **Submit tonight:** Complete the Written Testimony Form and place the form, along with any other supporting documentation, in the comment box.
  2. **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 email. See “Contact Information” on Page 10 of this handout. Mailed or emailed testimony must be postmarked or received no later than **March 22, 2017** to be included in the official public hearing record.

# Study Location Map



## Purpose of the Public Hearing

The objective of the hearing is to obtain the most complete expression of public opinion regarding the study aspects listed in this handout. Testimony provided during this hearing will be considered, along with all other judgments and opinions received, before further decisions are made on the proposed access management. This public hearing includes a study 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.

**The hearing will focus on the following aspects of the proposed WIS 21 access management study:**

- Study location
- Purpose of implementing access management
- Wisconsin State Statute 84.25
- Proposed access management plan

# Access Management Process

## What is access management?

Highway access management involves planning the number and location of driveways and intersections along a roadway. Proactive planning helps to maintain safe, efficient movement of traffic and to ensure safe access to and from adjacent properties.

## Why is access management needed?

Too many access points that are located too close together, compromise the safety of the traveling public by interrupting the flow of traffic along the highway. Access management can be used to help reduce or better manage congestion problems, delaying or preventing the need for any major highway changes.

The purpose for implementing an access management plan along WIS 21 is to preserve the long-term safety and mobility along WIS 21, while still providing adequate access to adjacent properties. There are approximately 350 existing access points in the 25.5-mile area. Managing access will help to maintain a safe roadway, while serving access needs for local development along the highway.

WIS 21 is an important rural arterial providing direct connections to I-90, US 41, and US 51 and serves an important role in moving traffic throughout the region while supporting the local and regional economy. WIS 21 is on the National Highway System (NHS) and is a non-interstate Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) route. The NHS system is critical to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility providing a primary network for movement of goods and services throughout the nation. The STRAHNET is a network of highways which are important to the United States' strategic defense policy and provide defense access, continuity and emergency capabilities for defense purposes, including a direct connection to Fort McCoy

The goals of access management are to:

- Protect the public investment in highway facilities and protect the function of state highways
- Preserve operational safety, capacity and efficiency
- Promote well-planned development of adjacent properties
- Minimize impacts of future highway improvements - more access increases the potential for more direct impacts when future projects are constructed.
- Delay or eliminate the need to expand or relocate the highway

## How is Wis. Stat. 84.25 used to manage access?

When no construction project is planned in the near future, but potential development or zoning changes, or other changes along the highway indicate that access pressures may begin to occur; WisDOT may implement Wis. Stat. 84.25 to manage the access along highways.

Under Wis. Stat. 84.25, access management can be used as a proactive tool by WisDOT to designate rural sections of the state highway system as controlled-access highways, where the existing or projected average daily traffic exceeds 2,000 vehicles within the next 20 years. WIS 21 is rural in nature. The traffic data collected in 2015 ranges from 3,050 and 6,200 vehicles per day. In the year 2037, the traffic along WIS 21 is anticipated to grow to approximately 3,700 to 7,400 vehicles per day. Approximately 22% of the WIS 21 daily traffic consists of trucks.

When the mapping process is complete, access is documented and mapped for today's land use and conditions. WisDOT will coordinate with property owners and local officials to map access at locations that will accommodate shared driveways to best accommodate possible future land divisions. If traffic conditions change in the future, WisDOT will work cooperatively with local agencies and property owners to consider adjustments to the access management plan.

### **Are property acquisition and highway construction required?**

No property acquisition or highway construction is required for the access management study.

Part of the mapping process may include a proposal to modify existing access at some properties with multiple access points, or at properties that have the potential for access on an adjacent local road. Driveway removals, if required, would likely occur as part of a future construction study. **No construction projects are planned along this section of WIS 21 at this time.**

## **Information for the Public Hearing Record**

In addition to the testimony provided at this public hearing, all exhibits, handouts, and displays available for viewing at the hearing will be included in the official public hearing record. Page 10 of this handout contains a complete listing of these materials. Other materials, along with other written testimony received after the hearing, will be added to the official public hearing record provided they are postmarked or received no later than **March 22, 2017**.

## **Study Statement**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is proposing to manage access on WIS 21 in Adams County (west county line to east county line) and in Waushara County (west county line to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Coloma). The WIS 21 access management study area includes the towns of Strongs Prairie, Preston, Richfield, and Coloma, and the village of Coloma.

WIS 21 is a Principal Arterial (a roadway that moves traffic from the local system to the freeway) and a high priority road in central Wisconsin. The proposed control of access is in the interest of safety, convenience, and general welfare of the public. It will also preserve the traffic-carrying capability of the existing roadway, protect the existing public investment in the facility, and prevent an increase in crash potential. Direct access deteriorates the safety and operating capacity of a highway, thus the need for access management.

The Department of Transportation is authorized under Section 84.25 of the Wisconsin Statutes to designate controlled access highways on rural portions of the state highway system, which carry an average traffic volume in excess of 2,000 vehicles per 24 hours. The segment of WIS 21 under consideration currently carries an average traffic volume of 3,050 and 6,200 vehicles per 24 hours.

After the establishment of a controlled access highway, no street, highway or private driveway may be opened onto this segment of WIS 21 without the written consent and approval of the Department of Transportation. Consent and approval may be given only if the public safety is served. WisDOT will also specify terms and conditions on which the consent and approval is given.

The exhibits presented at this public hearing, as the official map, shows aerial photos flown in 2010 for Waushara County and 2013 for Adams County. The aerial photos are printed at a scale of 1-inch =



200-feet. The environmental document and crash data are also available. The study termini are described as follows:

Beginning from the intersection of the centerline of WIS 21 and the west county line in Adams County, thence heading in an easterly direction along the centerline of WIS 21 to a point of intersection with 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Waushara County.

Existing public roads are shown by squares labeled "PH." Private driveways to individual residential properties are shown with solid rectangles. Current private driveways that are solely in agricultural use and commercial use are so labeled with a triangle and hexagon respectively. New access points, where access is deemed necessary but not yet built as of this date, other special access types (based on unique land use), and any identified special crossings are also shown.

The access management plan was prepared by the Department of Transportation in cooperation with Adams and Waushara counties, the village of Coloma, and towns of Strongs Prairie, Preston, Richfield, and Coloma. Under the plan, all existing public road connections to WIS 21 are proposed to remain. Future subdividing or development of the existing properties along WIS 21 will require the owner to arrange access to a public road. This may necessitate the building of an internal road system by the developer, the joint use of one private driveway by two or more parties, or that access is routed to an adjacent public road system.

A public involvement meeting to discuss the proposed access management plan for WIS 21 was conducted on May 23, 2016 at the Strongs Prairie town hall in Arkdale, Wisconsin.

After the scheduled public hearings, and based on public comment, if the Department of Transportation determines that designating WIS 21 as controlled access highway is needed in the interest of public safety, convenience, and general welfare, the following steps will occur:

1. "Finding, Determination and Declarations," officially establishing a portion of WIS 21 as a controlled access highway will be adopted by the Department of Transportation, published in the official newspapers, recorded with the Register of Deeds in each County, and filed with the County Clerks.
2. Each property owner adjacent to WIS 21 will be notified by recorded document of the access authorized to their property from WIS 21.

Access that is authorized but not yet constructed will require a permit from the Department of Transportation for construction and all costs shall be the responsibility of the abutting owner. Such permit will be issued upon request of the owner. Access changes will be subject to controls and regulations that are compatible with the study access management map. Before any change is made in the location or type of driveway, such change will be subject to review and will require approval by the Department of Transportation. Requests for additional access will also require Department of Transportation review and approval. Access locations proposed for removal would be removed under a future construction study, when planned, and would not be removed as part of this access mapping action.

This completes the study statement.

## Next Steps

At the end of the testimony period, the study team will review and consider all public hearing testimony received on the access management proposal. This input will assist the study team in implementing the access management plan. If the Department of Transportation determines that designating WIS 21 as controlled access highway is needed in the interest of public safety, convenience, and general welfare, a schedule including the following milestones will be followed to complete the study:

- Final Maps – May 2017
- Document Processing – May to September 2017
- Study Completion – September 2017

## Description of Public Hearing Exhibits

- Hearing handout packet
- Environmental document
- Crash analysis report
- Aerial maps showing property lines, property owners, and access mapping proposal

## Contact Information

### Submittal of Written testimony or general study questions

Additional written public hearing testimony on the access management proposal should be sent to the WisDOT project manager. Additional testimony will be added to the official public hearing record provided it is postmarked or received no later than **March 22, 2017**.

Richard Handrick, P.E.  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
510 North Hanson Lake Road  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
Richard.Handrick@dot.wi.gov  
(715) 365-5716

Information regarding the proposal is available on the WisDOT website:

[www.wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis21access/default.aspx](http://www.wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis21access/default.aspx)

# Written Testimony Form

Study ID 6160-00-29/6170-00-29  
WIS 21 Access Management  
Juneau County line – Coloma  
Adams and Waushara counties



**Check public hearing date**

Strongs Prairie Town Hall – February 27, 2017

Anna Follett Community Center – March 8, 2017

**Please place this form in the comment box or mail by March 22, 2017.**

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Testimony (use additional pages if necessary):**

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STAMP

HERE

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
510 N. Hanson Lake Road  
Rhinelander, WI 54501  
ATTN: Richard Handrick

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Fold here and staple to mail

# Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony

Study ID 6160-00-29/6170-00-29  
WIS 21 Access Management  
Juneau County line – Coloma  
Adams and Waushara counties



## Check public hearing date

- Strongs Prairie Town Hall – February 27, 2017
- Anna Follett Community Center – March 8, 2017

## Public Verbal Testimony

This registration slip may be used for providing public or private verbal testimony. Following the presentation of the study statement at 5:15 p.m., public verbal testimony will take place. Complete this registration slip and submit it to a study 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 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 study aspects for which this public hearing is being held. To allow everyone a chance to speak, please limit your testimony to approximately 5 minutes.

## Private Verbal Testimony

The same process applies for providing private verbal testimony, but this registration slip should be presented directly to the court reporter when a spot is available to provide your private verbal testimony.

If you do not wish to speak, but would like to use this registration slip to record your position on the study being considered at the public hearing, please check the applicable boxes below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

- Wishing to speak**
- Not wishing to speak, but please record my position on the study being considered at the public hearing:**

Support, describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do Not Support, describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_