



**Division of Transportation
System Development**
Northeast Regional Office
944 Vanderperren Way
Green Bay, WI 54304



US 41 Conversion

Scott Walker, Governor
Mark Gottlieb, P.E., Secretary
Internet web site: www.dot.wisconsin.gov

Telephone: (920)492-2222
Facsimile (FAX): (920)492-5807
E-mail: ner.dtsd@dot.wi.gov

Date: January 18, 2013

Mr. Joey Shoemaker
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Suite 221, Old Fort Square
211 North Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54303

Re: Invitation to Agency Update Meeting for the US 41 Interstate Conversion Study
ID 1133-00-00
IH 94 – IH 43
Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Dodge, Fond du Lac,
Winnebago, Outagamie, and Brown Counties

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) would like to invite you to attend a meeting to discuss changes in the US 41 Interstate Conversion Study. You have the option of attending the meeting in person or joining the meeting via conference call.

Date: Monday, February 4, 2012
Time: 1:00 to 3:00 pm
**Location: Fox Valley Technical College
Oshkosh Riverside Campus
150 N. Campbell Road
Oshkosh, WI
Room 133**
Conference Line: 1-888-557-8511 Access 8978271

Purpose of the Meeting:

1. Update agencies on a proposal to change the type of environmental document from an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to an Environmental Report (ER). WisDOT and FHWA want to obtain your concurrence / comments on the proposed change. More information about the proposed change in document type is found in the memorandum to FHWA enclosed with this letter.
2. With the proposed change from an EIS to an ER, the project's Agency Coordination Plan and Impact Analysis Methodology, which were reviewed at the May 10 meeting in Fond du Lac, have been revised to remove references to the EIS and EIS tasks in the study process. The project schedule in the Agency Coordination Plan has also been revised. The revised plans are enclosed with this letter for your review.

3. The project team will also provide a general update on other aspects of the study.
4. Present planned agency and public involvement activities for the remainder of the project.

I hope to see you at the February 4th meeting. If you plan on attending the meeting, please send me an e-mail at your earliest convenience confirming your attendance. If you are unable to attend the meeting or call in, but you would like to share your thoughts about the proposed change in the environmental document, please contact me at 920-492-5661 or by e-mail at tammy.rabe@dot.wi.gov.

Sincerely,



Tammy Rabe, PE
WisDOT Planning Project Manager

Enclosures: Environmental Document Type Memorandum, Revised Agency Coordination Plan and Revised Impact Analysis Methodology Plan

cc: Tracey Blankenship, FHWA, Major Projects Manager
Jay Waldschmidt, TSS-ESS Regional Environmental Liaison
Brian Andreas, Strand Associates, Consultant Project Manager

FHWA File: US 41 Interstate Conversion Study ID 1113-00-00



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Date: January 18, 2013

Mr. Michael Thompson
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Environmental Analysis Team Supervisor – Eastern Wisconsin
2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Milwaukee WI 53212-3128

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy A. Rabe".

Tammy Rabe, PE
WisDOT Planning Project Manager

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Dear Agency Representative:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are studying the potential conversion of U.S. Highway 41 (US 41) in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Winnebago, Outagamie and Brown Counties from a principal arterial on the National Highway System to an Interstate Highway. The project begins at the south state line and follows I-94 north to Milwaukee, I-894 and US 45 around Milwaukee and US 41 north to the terminus at the US 41/I-43 interchange in Green Bay.

When the US 41 Interstate Conversion Study began, the south project terminus was the Mitchell Interchange in Milwaukee. For that reason, Racine and Kenosha County representatives and representatives from communities along I-94 south of Milwaukee were not asked to participate in the study. It was not until summer 2012 that WisDOT and FHWA decided to extend the project's south terminus through Racine and Kenosha Counties. As a result of the change in the project's south terminus, WisDOT is now reaching out to agency representatives in both counties and the communities along I-94 south of Milwaukee. In Racine and Kenosha Counties, the study area is already an Interstate; however, interstate conversion would affect signing in both counties.

To keep agencies and community representatives informed about the current status of the project, WisDOT would like to invite you to attend a meeting to discuss changes in the US 41 Interstate Conversion Study. You have the option of attending the meeting in person or joining the meeting via conference call.

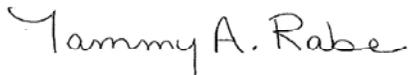
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WisDOT Planning Project Manager

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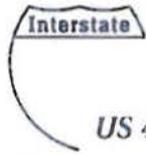


Sign-in Sheet

Agency Update Meeting - Call in's
February 4, 2013

US 41 Interstate Conversion Study
Project I.D. 1133-00-00
Green Bay to WI-IL Stateline

Name (Please Print)	Representing	Phone or e-mail
Mike Slavney	Vandewalle	
Jill Michaelson	WisDOT	
Mike Helmrik	WisDOT	
Kristin Romanowicz	City of Green Bay	
Elizabeth Poole	US EPA	
Ryan Hoel	SEWRPC	
Julie Widholm	WDNR	
Jim Haggerty	Village of Slinger	
Chris Walter	Washington County	
Gary Sipsma	Kenosha County	
Scott Lee	WisDOT	
Chris Fornal	City of Milwaukee	



US 41 Conversion

Sign-in Sheet

Agency Update Meeting
February 4, 2013

US 41 Interstate Conversion Study
Project I.D. 1133-00-00
Green Bay to WI-IL Stateline

Name (Please Print)	Representing	Phone or e-mail
ERNEST WINTERS	Waukegan CO	920 535 1750
Walt Raith	East Central WI RPC	920-751-4770 wraith@eastcentralrpc.org
Jeff Agee-Aguayo	Bay-Lake RPC	(920) 448-2820 jagee@baylakerpc.org
DAN Dupies	CITAM HILL	414-847-0206
Andrew Brinkerhoff	FHWA	608-829-7523
CHRIS STRING	CITY OF OSHKOSH	920-232-5342
Dave Johnson	Outagamie County	920-832-5255
Susan Finco	Leonard + Finco	

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Sign-in Sheet
 Agency Update Meeting
 February 4, 2013

US 41 Interstate Conversion Study
 Project I.D. 1133-00-00
 Green Bay to WI-IL Stateline

Name (Please Print)	Representing	Phone or e-mail
Jay Waldschmidt	Wis DOT	jay.waldschmidt@dot.wi.gov
Tracey Blankenship	FHWA	tracey.blankenship@dot.gov
Ian Chidister	FHWA	ian.chidister@dot.gov
Ben Goldsworthy	CH2M Hill	bgoldsw@ch2m.com
Tammy Rabe	WISDOT	
GEORGE DEARBORN	TOWN OF MENASHA	GDEARBORN@TOWN-MENASHA.COM
Brian Andreas	Strand	



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US 41 Interstate Conversion Study Agency Update Meeting No.2, February 4, 2013

ATTENDEES: See attached sign-in sheets (agencies calling into the meeting have been added to the sign-in sheets)

COPIES: Tammy Rabe/WisDOT Mike Slavney/Vandewalle
Bryan Lipke/WisDOT Brian Andreas/Strand Associates
Jill Michaelson/WisDOT Susan Finco/Leonard & Finco

FROM: Dan Dupies/CH2M HILL

DATE: February 19, 2013

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) held an agency update meeting on Monday, February 4, 2012, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fox Valley Technical College Oshkosh Riverside Campus to discuss changes in the US 41 Interstate Conversion Study. The purpose of the agency meeting was to obtain agency input on the possible change in the project's environmental document from an environmental impact statement to an environmental report. The meeting was also intended to allow agencies to comment on the revised Agency Coordination Plan and Impact Analysis Methodology. The Agency Coordination Plan and Impact Analysis Methodology and the environmental document type memorandum were sent to the agencies on January 18, 2013 with the meeting invite letter. On January 31, 2013 an e-mail was sent to meeting participants reminding them of the meeting date, purpose, and location. The meeting invitations were sent to the approximately 40 agencies that agreed to participate in the study in fall 2011 and 12 agencies in Racine and Kenosha counties that were added to the list after the project's south terminus was changed from the Mitchell Interchange to the US 41/I-94 Interchange just south of the state line.

Meeting Summary

Tammy Rabe used a PowerPoint presentation to cover the following topics:

- Project History
- Project Update
- Environmental Document Type
- Impact Analysis Methodology & Agency Coordination Plan
- What's Next

A pdf version of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes. At the close of the presentation, Tammy requested agency representatives to send comments on the potential change in the project's environmental document type and the revised Agency Coordination Plan and Impact Analysis Methodology by February 22nd. Following the presentation, meeting participants had the questions/comments described below.



Agency Comments

- Walt Raith (East Central Regional Planning Commission) asked why WisDOT would have to sign US 41 concurrent with I-41. **A gap will not be allowed on US 41. US 41 will be supplementally signed along I-41.**
- Elizabeth Poole (USEPA) stated that she did not see any fatal flaws with the possible change in the project's document type. She recommended that we describe how major projects in the study corridor could affect this study. Elizabeth said that USEPA would send written comments to FHWA/WisDOT. **Comments were received by WisDOT on 2/26/13.**
- Julie Widholm (DNR) indicated DNR did not have any concerns with changing the environmental document type to an environmental report.
- In an e-mail to WisDOT, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) indicated they would not attend the meeting because the potential for impacts to waters of the United States is anticipated to be extremely limited (to absent), the COE indicated they had no appreciable concern with changing to an environmental report.
- Tracey Blankenship (FHWA) informed the group that the potential downgrade in the project's environmental document is normally associated with a change in the project scope, but that is not the case in this study. It was the lack of significant projects impacts that prompted consideration of the change. Tracey said that FHWA wanted agency input on the potential document change before making a final decision.
- Jeff Agee Aguayo (Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission) had no concern about the potential document change, but said that there could be spot issues with major projects like the Southern Bypass in Brown County or the US 10/WIS 441 interchange.
- George Dearborn (Town of Menasha) agreed with the potential change to an environmental report. He said he hoped the interchange project would stay on schedule and that the major projects in the study area be functionally compatible with Interstate conversion.
- Jill Michaelson (WisDOT) said she has some revisions to the Agency Coordination Plan. **Changes have been made to update the several of the agency contacts.**
- Walt Raith (East Central Regional Planning Commission) asked whether the grandfathering legislation for oversize/overweight vehicles would only extend to the Zoo Interchange. **Yes, the legislation is only needed for the section of US 41 from the Zoo Interchange to I-43 in Green Bay.**
- Jay Waldschmidt (WisDOT) said he would like the Agency Coordination Plan and the Impact Analysis Methodology be placed on the project website to allow the public to comment on the revisions to both documents. **Both plans were placed on the project website on 2/11/13.**

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

US 41 Corridor

WI State Line to Green Bay

*February 4, 2013 Agency
Update Meeting*

www.41conversion.wi.gov



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Agenda

- Project History
- Project Update
- Environmental Document Type
- Impact Analysis Methodology & Agency Coordination Plan
- What's Next



Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Project History

- Local communities and organizations
- August 2005: Rep. Petri - federal transportation bill
- April 2011:
- Governor Walker
- 2012/2013:
- Senators Kohl, Baldwin, Johnson, Reps. Petri, Ribble



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Major Project Tasks

- Route designation
- Environmental Document
- FHWA/WisDOT Agreement
- Interstate signing



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Interstate 41

November 2012 – AASTHO
and FHWA approve
I-41 designation

- Wisconsin State Line to Green Bay via I-94, I-894, US 45 and US 41
- US 41 through Milwaukee to become WIS 175



www.41conversion.wi.gov



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Environmental Document Type

- Originally planned Tier 1 EIS
- Recommending Environmental Report



Public Involvement

- 6 Public Information Meetings
- Business Community
- Trucking Industry
- Indirect & Cumulative Effects Panel



Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Oversize/Overweight

- Legislation has been drafted that would allow existing US 41 weight limits on a future interstate
- Industry groups continue to push for legislation
- WisDOT will not convert without legislation



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Outdoor Advertising

- Outreach to Outdoor Advertising Association
- Improvements to current billboards
- Non-conforming billboards will remain



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Route Change

- New Interstate, Zoo to Green Bay
- Old US 41, Appleton Ave.
- Old US 41, Mitchell to Stadium
- Existing Interstate, I-894, I-94
- No change in Exit Numbering

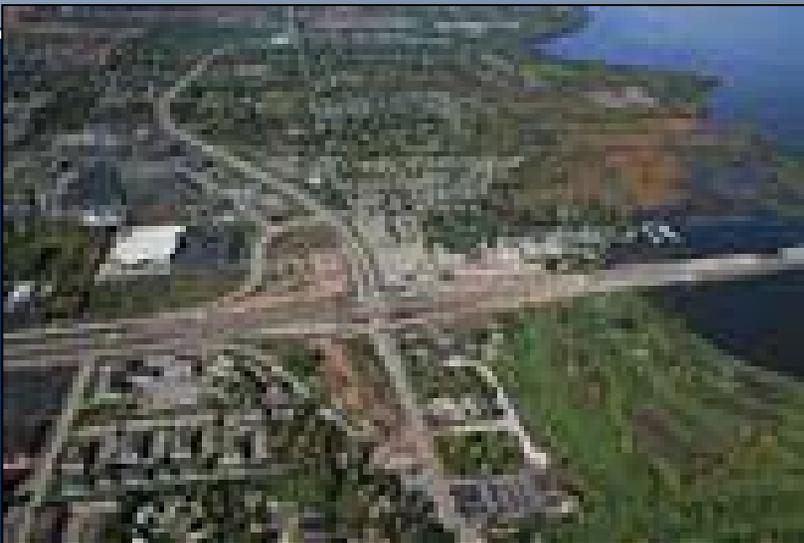


Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Indirect & Cumulative Effects

- Traffic / Noise / Air
- Other associated actions
- Economic development
- Land development
- Farmland
- Water quality
- Endangered species & wildlife habitat
- Historic & archaeological resources
- Environmental justice



Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Direct Impacts

- Interstate Signs
- Potential future construction projects to meet Interstate standards



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Interstate

US 41 Conversion

Agency Coordination Plan Impact Methodology Plan

- Revised due to change in document type
- References to EIS removed
- Minor changes to impact assessment text
- Schedule was updated
- Please submit comments by February 22.



What's Next?

- Rescind Notice of Intent to prepare EIS – March 2013
- Approved Environmental Report – August 2013
- Notice of Availability sent to agencies – September 2013
- 30-day comment period – September to October 2013
- Public hearings (3) – September 2013
- Finalize FHWA/WisDOT Agreement – October 2013
- Complete signing plans – Early 2014
- Install Interstate signs – Summer to Fall 2014





Project Contacts

Tammy Rabe - WisDOT
Planning Project Manager
(920) 492-5661
tammy.rabe@dot.wi.gov

Kim A. Rudat, - WisDOT
Regional Communication Mgr.
(920) 492-5743
kim.rudat@dot.wi.gov

Bryan Lipke – WisDOT
Planning Project Manager
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