

Public Involvement Meeting Handout

**US 53
US 63 at Trego
Washburn County**

Project ID: 1197-00-00



**October 20, 2015
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
(Trego Town Hall, W5690 Trego River Street, Trego)**

Purpose of the meeting

Welcome to the US 53 – US 63 Trego project public involvement meeting.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is planning improvements to US 53 and US 63 in the Town of Trego to improve safety for the traveling public and maintain the operational efficiencies of these highways. The project limits include US 53/US 63 from Mackey Road to the Namekagon River.

Our objectives for today's meeting are to:

- Provide information regarding the purpose and need for the proposed improvements
- Provide you with background information about the previously completed US 53 Corridor Preservation Study
- Obtain your input on potential solutions to address the existing and future transportation needs of the traveling public, local community and adjacent businesses in the Trego area.

US 53 Corridor preservation study (2007 – 2014)

WisDOT studied US 53 from WIS 70 to Frost Road as a part of the US 53 Corridor Preservation Study that was conducted from 2007 to 2014 (WisDOT project I.D. 1195-00-02, US 53, Spooner to Lampson). The purpose of the study was to evaluate the impacts of converting the current expressway to freeway standards and eliminating the at-grade intersections of County E and US 63. Alternative development included considerations to minimize adjacent property impacts and provide safe access.

For the purpose of the alternative analysis, the studied corridor was divided into two sections referred to as the Spooner Area and the Trego Area. Several different types of grade separated interchange alternatives were considered for the Trego Area section of the corridor study limits. These alternatives included but were not limited to a diamond interchange, a partial cloverleaf/diamond interchange, a single point interchange, and a partial cloverleaf interchange located to the south of County E requiring the realignment of US 63 (this was identified as the recommended alternative under the preservation study - see attached exhibit).

The study concluded in 2014 with the approval of an environmental document that summarized the purpose and need of the proposed action, summarized alternatives considered and identified preferred alternatives. In addition, future right of way was preserved under Wis. Stat. 84.295(10) for the preferred alternatives.

US 53 – US 63 Trego project (2015 forward)

The crash rate at the existing US 53 – County E intersection continues to be higher than the state-wide average resulting in it being placed on WisDOT's list of "5 percent most severe safety needs". Due to this safety concern, WisDOT has dedicated funding for the design and construction of a segment of US 53 beginning at Mackey Road and ending at the Namekagon River. This effort includes further evaluation of existing traffic operations and safety,

an environmental document summarizing additional alternatives analysis to ultimately determine/confirm the preferred alternative, the development of design plans and construction of the preferred alternative.

The design team for this next phase of the project has begun to collect traffic and supplemental design survey data, perform environmental field studies, and has met with local officials and environmental oversight agencies to discuss the scope of the project and receive initial comment.

Purpose and Need

Over the past 5 years there have been a total of 44 crashes along the study segment of US 53, not including deer crashes. The highest two crash intersections are located at the US 53 intersection with US 63 (9 crashes) and the intersection with County E (29 crashes, including one fatality). The crash rate for the intersection with County E is approximately 2.5 times the statewide average for similar type intersections. In addition, seasonal peaks due to the highly recreational nature of the region and use of US 53 as a large truck route result in significant traffic delays and conflicts at the US 53-US 63 at-grade intersection for westbound US 63 traffic wanting to enter onto US 53.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to address these safety concerns and reduce operational delays/conflicts. The proposed action would implement improvements that seek to move traffic safely and efficiently along these high priority routes while working in concert with local regional economic initiatives, land use planning, and the environmental resources present in the project area.

Real estate

Although the ultimate preferred alternative and associated impacts have not been determined, it is anticipated that additional right of way will be required for this project. Work with impacted property owners is currently scheduled to begin summer 2017.

Project Schedule

The project schedule is currently as follows:

Alternatives Analysis	Winter 2016
Second Public Involvement Meeting	Spring/Summer 2016
Finalize Environmental Document	Spring 2017
Begin Right of Way Acquisition	Summer 2017
Finalize Plans	Summer 2019
Construction	As early as 2020

Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Attached to this handout is a sheet for your written comments and input regarding the proposed project. Please mail any written comments about the project before November 6, 2015 or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also e-mail your comments to the contacts listed below.

Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. Your input is welcome and appreciated throughout the design process.

For more information, please contact the individuals noted below or visit the project website at: <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53trego/default.aspx>

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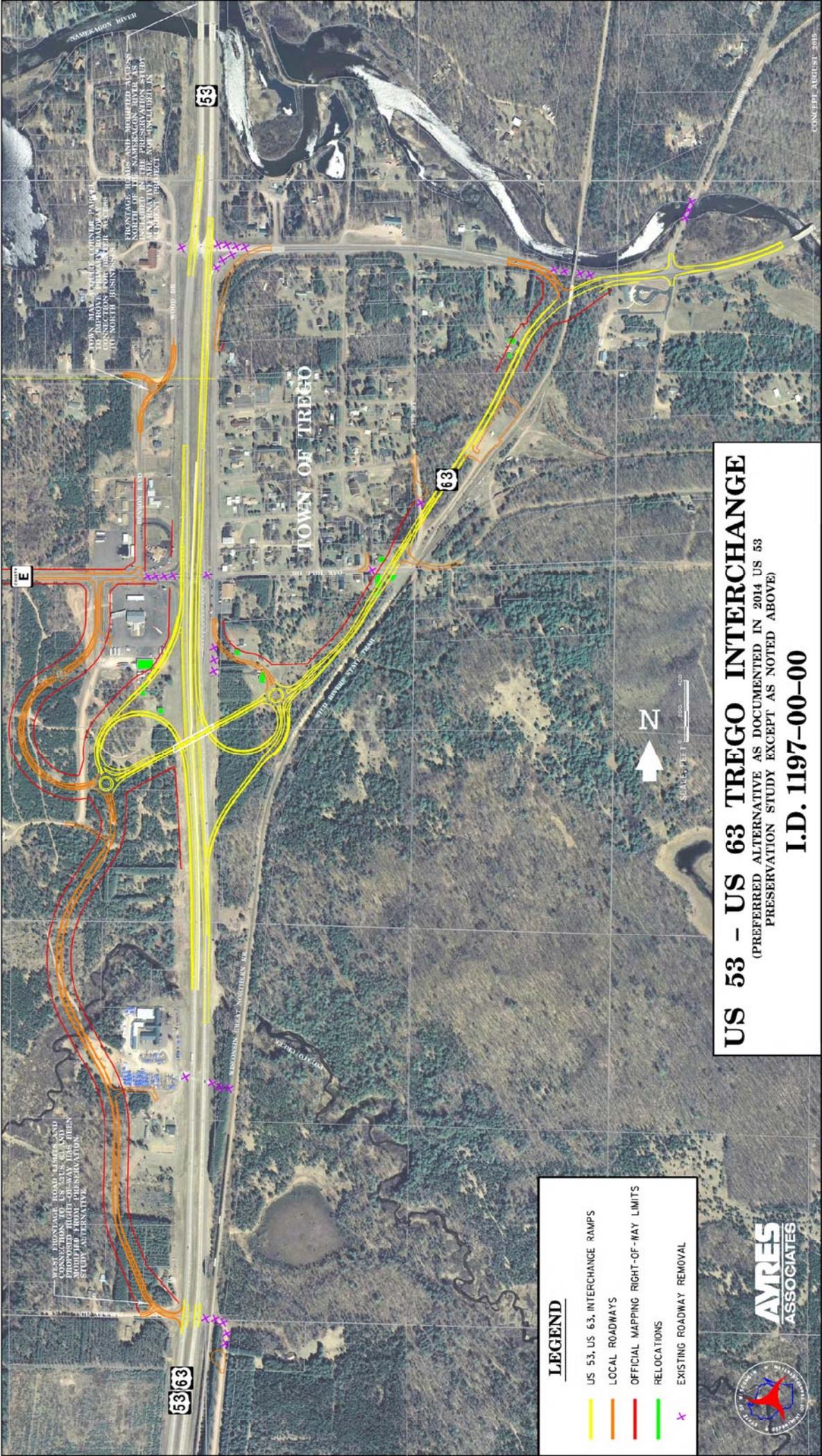
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Attn: Beth Cunningham

Fold here and staple to mail



CONCEPT AUGUST 2015

US 53 - US 63 TREGO INTERCHANGE
 (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE AS DOCUMENTED IN 2014 US 53
 PRESERVATION STUDY EXCEPT AS NOTED ABOVE)
I.D. 1197-00-00

LEGEND

- US 53, US 63, INTERCHANGE RAMPS
- LOCAL ROADWAYS
- OFFICIAL MAPPING RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS
- RELOCATIONS
- X EXISTING ROADWAY REMOVAL

