



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

# WIS 60 Corridor Study

Village of Jackson to Village of Grafton

Newsletter No. 1 | June 2012

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the WIS 60 Corridor Study contact:

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**Mission Statement:** To provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system.

## Study focus – address transportation needs along WIS 60 between Jackson and Grafton

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has initiated a study to evaluate existing and potential future transportation deficiencies in the WIS 60 corridor between the Village of Jackson and the Village of Grafton. The project limits extend along WIS 60 from the US 45 interchange in Jackson to 11th Avenue in Grafton (see map below). The study purpose is to analyze safety, capacity, and operational needs on WIS 60 and develop and evaluate a range of alternatives that address these issues. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be developed that will identify a preferred alternative that meets project stakeholders’ needs while minimizing overall social and environmental impacts.

The three year study will be completed with a future corridor construction recommendation in late 2014.



Study Area: Village of Jackson to Village of Grafton

## PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED

### • Village of Jackson

June 20, 2012

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Jackson Area Community Center

Address: N165 W20330 Hickory Ln.

Short presentation at 6 p.m.

### • Village of Grafton

June 27, 2012

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

John Long Middle School

Address: 700 Hickory St., Grafton

Short presentation at 6 p.m.



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## What the study includes

Key activities to be completed during the study include the following:

- **Problem Identification/Data Gathering** – conduct land use inventory, review local land use plans, inventory existing transportation facilities and utilities.
- **Alternatives** – develop/screen/refine alternatives, select a recommended alternative.
- **Engineering** – evaluate existing conditions, conduct a crash and safety analysis, evaluate traffic operations, develop typical roadway sections.
- **Environmental Studies** – determine locations of threatened and endangered species, archaeological and historic properties, wetlands, and hazardous materials.
- **Environmental Document** – document the need for an improved highway corridor and the process used to identify the preferred alternative, evaluate the socioeconomic and environmental costs and benefits of a reasonable range of alternatives and describe how the project team coordinated with the public and regulatory agencies.

- **Agency Coordination** – obtain input from local, state, and federal review agencies.
- **Community Involvement** – coordinate with local officials, hold public information meetings, conduct interest group meetings and meet with a project advisory committee (PAC).

## Need for WIS 60 improvements between Jackson and Grafton

The need for WIS 60 improvements is based on a combination of factors.

### Safety Issues

- Injury and property damage crashes in Jackson are above statewide rates for similar roadways
- Fatal, injury, and property damage crashes in the rural area between Jackson and Grafton are above statewide rates
- There were 3 fatal crashes between Jackson and Grafton in 2008 – 2009. The fatal crash rate is 3 times higher than the statewide rate.

## PAC Members Represent You

A project advisory committee (PAC) has been assembled to represent local interests along the WIS 60 corridor. The PAC, which consists of local residents and officials from local municipalities, will meet with the project team at critical milestones during the study. PAC members are identified below. Please contact these PAC representatives if you would like to discuss specific issues related to this study.

- |                                                                            |                                                                             |                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Jim Culotta</b><br><i>Town of Cedarburg Administrator</i>             | • <b>Captain Glenn Lindberg</b><br><i>Cedarburg Police Department</i>       | • <b>Deb Sielski</b><br><i>Washington County Planning and Parks Department</i>      |
| • <b>Chief Jed Dolnick</b><br><i>Village of Jackson Police Department</i>  | • <b>Bob Loomis</b><br><i>City of Cedarburg Councilman</i>                  | • <b>Andrew Struck</b><br><i>Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department</i>       |
| • <b>Raymond Heidtke</b><br><i>Town of Jackson Chairman</i>                | • <b>David Murphy</b><br><i>Village of Grafton Director of Public Works</i> | • <b>John Walther</b><br><i>Village of Jackson Administrator/ Planning Director</i> |
| • <b>Darrell Hofland</b><br><i>Village of Grafton Administrator</i>        | • <b>Julia Oliver</b><br><i>Town of Jackson Clerk</i>                       | • <b>Roman Weninger</b><br><i>Town of Cedarburg</i>                                 |
| • <b>Brian Kober</b><br><i>Village of Jackson Director of Public Works</i> | • <b>Mike Rambousek</b><br><i>Village of Grafton Planning Director</i>      | • <b>Thomas Wiza</b><br><i>City of Cedarburg Director of Public Works</i>           |
| • <b>Larry Lechner</b><br><i>Town of Cedarburg</i>                         | • <b>David Salvaggio</b><br><i>Town of Cedarburg Supervisor</i>             |                                                                                     |

## Traffic Demand

- Traffic volumes corridor wide are expected to increase by up to 80 percent by 2040.
- In 2040, the project's design year, traffic volumes in Jackson and Grafton are expected to be 21,200 to 25,700 vehicles per day (vpd). Current volumes in Jackson are between 8,200 and 14,600 vpd, and volumes in Grafton are between 12,100 to 13,400 vpd.

## Traffic Operations

- Traffic operations in the 10 miles between Jackson and Grafton are adversely affected by limited passing opportunities. The limited passing opportunities often result in risky passing maneuvers that may contribute to the crash rate in the rural area being above the statewide average.
- Traffic operations are generally acceptable in Jackson and Grafton although Jackson residents living along WIS 60 (Main Street) have difficulty entering and exiting their driveways because of the level of traffic.
- As traffic volumes increase, it will take vehicles more time to cross WIS 60 at intersections such as County G, County M, and County Y. Increasing the length of time vehicles have to wait to cross WIS 60 may increase the risks drivers take crossing the highway.
- With the increased traffic volumes predicted along WIS 60 in urban and rural areas, traffic operations corridor-wide would be expected to worsen if improvements are not made.

## Preliminary alternatives being considered

The project team has developed preliminary alternatives in Jackson, Grafton, and the rural area between the two communities. The preliminary alternatives will be on display at the June meetings. Because of the number of alternatives evaluated, the project team used uniform band widths to determine approximate impacts. In Jackson and Grafton, the project team developed alternatives on the north side and south side of WIS 60, as well as centered on WIS 60. In the rural area, alternatives were developed north and south of WIS 60. Off alignment alternatives (alternatives not along WIS 60)



*View of the Five Corners intersection looking east along WIS 60*

have been developed in Jackson and at the Five Corners intersection to limit the number of potential residential and commercial displacements. No detailed intersection configurations were evaluated. An alternatives comparison table, which identifies the impacts of the preliminary alternatives, will be on display at the June meetings. Following the June meetings, the project team will evaluate public input on the alternatives and begin refining the alternatives to reduce impacts while addressing transportation deficiencies in the study area.

### What's next?

After the first public information meeting, the study team will conduct the following activities:

- Review the input received at the June meetings
- Refine/screen preliminary alternatives
- Continue work on the environmental document
- Continue coordination with state and federal review agencies
- Conduct the third PAC meeting and second public information meeting in fall/winter 2012.

## Please join us on June 20 or June 27

WisDOT invites the public to attend the first public meeting for the WIS 60 Corridor Study on Wednesday, June 20 or Wednesday, June 27. The June 20 meeting will take place in the Village of Jackson and will focus on the Washington County portion of the project. The June 27 meeting in the Village of Grafton will focus on the Ozaukee County portion of the project. Please feel free to attend either meeting. Information regarding the entire study corridor will be available at both meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to:

- Introduce the study team
- Describe the study purpose and need
- Obtain your comments and thoughts on the study goals and transportation deficiencies
- Obtain your input on the project's preliminary alternatives

The meetings will be held in an open house format with a short presentation at 6:00 p.m. Any interested person may stop in and visit with the project team,

learn more about the study, review displays, and share ideas and concerns. If you cannot attend these meetings but would like to receive information about this study, contact one of the project team members (see page 1 for contact information).

### Public meetings scheduled

- **Village of Jackson**

*June 20, 2012*

*5 p.m. to 8 p.m.*

*Jackson Area Community Center*

*Address: N165 W20330 Hickory Ln.*

*Short presentation at 6 p.m.*

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