

#### 4.06 PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS AND CONCERNS

During the public workshops and meetings, participants have expressed concerns over a variety of issues relating to the corridor. Generally, most everyone acknowledged that the traffic is growing and will continue to grow in the corridor. Most everyone also agreed that it is not a safe stretch of road.

The reasons people felt it was unsafe varied widely. Some felt that aggressive, impatient driving behavior and a lack of speed limit enforcement was the main factor for unsafe conditions along the road. Others identified physical problems with the roadway:

- There are too many access points and driveways, especially in populated areas.
- Many intersections are unimproved and need turning lanes and/or signals.
- Lane markings at certain stretches in McFarland, at CTH N, and at a few intersections in Stoughton are inadequate and confusing.
- The geometry of the change from a two-lane to a four-lane cross section on the south side of McFarland is perceived as dangerous.
- Speed limits are too high in certain places, such as on the west side of Stoughton, especially considering a perceived lack of enforcement there, and through McFarland considering the number of driveways there.

The third major type of comment involves concerns over the future and community character. Some residents did not want to see the highway go to four lanes because they felt it would ruin the rural nature of the landscape and make it more difficult for farmers to use the roadway. They also felt that, since driving behavior is the major problem on the road, making it four lanes wide will only increase the number of poor drivers and speeding, and not alleviate the root of the problem.

There were also concerns that future strip commercial development north of Stoughton and south of McFarland would further complicate and extend existing traffic problems. Finally, some respondents felt the road should accommodate more than just cars and mentioned their disappointment when bus service to and from Madison ceased. There were also concerns that bicyclists could not use the roadway because it is too unsafe, but that it was one of the only direct routes into Madison from the area.