

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Public Involvement Plan

for the

***Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan and
System-plan Environmental Evaluation***

November 2016

Public Involvement Plan for the Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan

This document is the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the *Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan* (SHIP or the Plan) and System-plan Environmental Evaluation (SEE). Along with this document, the processes and procedures within the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)'s *Public Involvement Plan for Long-Range Transportation Plans* are hereby incorporated by reference as part of this public involvement plan. The draft PIP for the SHIP was made available for a 45-day comment period beginning on June 29, 2016 and ending on August 12, 2016. WisDOT did not receive comments specific to the PIP during the comment period.

Background

In 2000, WisDOT completed the *State Highway Plan (SHP) 2020*, which presented a blueprint for investing in our state trunk highway and bridges over a 21-year period. Conditions have changed dramatically in the last 15 years, requiring an update and repurposing of the former plan. Given the rapid pace of technological and policy direction, WisDOT is developing a *Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan* that documents WisDOT's stewardship policies and activities, and identifies the key needs and recommends options for addressing those needs over the next 20 years.

The purpose of the SHIP is to articulate the state's transportation infrastructure needs and communicate WisDOT's stewardship approach for managing the roadway system. The SHIP will build upon previously published long-range plans, the Wisconsin Transportation and Finance Policy Commission's Report, *Keep Wisconsin Moving* (2013) and the Department's initiative, *Transportation Moves Wisconsin* (2014).

The Plan will discuss and incorporate federal requirements outlined in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST ACT) enacted December 4, 2015. It will also discuss transportation funding needs, challenges, and opportunities over the 20-year planning horizon. Department priorities, including safety, mobility, reliability, and economic development, will provide the basis for analysis throughout the Plan. In addition, while the Plan will focus on the state's roads, it will also discuss the importance of an integrated multimodal transportation system to the state's economy and quality of life.

The *Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan* will include:

- an inventory of the highway system and conditions;
- a discussion of transportation funding challenges;
- a description of WisDOT's stewardship approach in managing the state's transportation funds and system;

- a summary of the state’s infrastructure needs, describing what improvements could be made with additional funds;
- an analysis of the value of an integrated multimodal transportation system to the economy and quality of life, highlighting transportation demand management strategies, transit, and economic development initiatives occurring throughout the state;
- an environmental justice analysis of proposed Plan recommendations; and
- a System-plan Environmental Evaluation (SEE).

These discussions will set the stage for an update to the state’s long-range transportation plan, *Connections 2030*. The document will also define options demonstrating system conditions associated with different transportation funding levels, utilizing the state’s asset management strategy. The planning horizon will extend 20 years. The SHIP will build upon existing WisDOT plans, policies and performance measures, but will go beyond previous planning efforts to analyze current and potential transportation funding options.

Goals of the Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan Public Involvement Plan

As identified in the state’s *Public Involvement Plan for Long-Range Transportation Plans*, public participation is critical to the success of the SHIP and SEE. To ensure broad-based public awareness and participation, WisDOT will:

- ensure an open and inclusive process;
- inform the public about Wisconsin’s transportation system funding and stewardship;
- provide opportunities for the public to participate in the planning process;
- facilitate dialogue between WisDOT, the general public, and stakeholders to identify the critical issues facing state transportation funding and develop strategies or policies with consideration of these issues;
- schedule public meetings at times and locations that are both convenient and accessible to all people in Wisconsin including minority and low-income populations and Tribal governments; and
- utilize technologies such as social media, Internet-based public involvement applications, and other media outlets as appropriate.

Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan Public Involvement Activities

Phase 1: Pre-draft Plan Development and Needs Identification

During the pre-draft phase of Plan development, WisDOT will conduct the following activities.

- Publish a Notice of Intent to prepare SHIP and SEE in the official state newspaper.
- Release the draft Public Involvement Plan for public comment. A notice will be published in the official state newspaper announcing the release and providing details of the comment period. A notice will also be published on WisDOT's website.
- Review contact lists from previous planning efforts, such as rail and freight activities, and develop an updated master list. Revise the list to include individuals who want to be added and remove individuals when addresses are no longer valid. Update the master contact list on a continual basis to keep stakeholders and interested parties informed of transportation planning activities.
- Notify members of the list via email that development of the draft Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan has begun.
- Meet with key stakeholder groups in conjunction with sessions open to the public, when possible.
- Utilize the industry experts on WisDOT's Freight Advisory Committee (FAC), as well as additional representation as needed, to provide input into the process and Plan development.
- Hold one consultation meeting with federal and state agencies as required by MAP-21 and the FAST Act to assess planning documents, regulations, as well as mitigation, avoidance, or minimization strategies.
- Hold one Tribal outreach meeting to gather input on related transportation planning issues and documents.
- Hold up to two meetings with Environmental Justice populations to gain their input to development of the draft Plan and SEE.
- Meet with regional, metropolitan, and local government officials to obtain their input to development of the draft Plan and SEE.
- Collect, track, and review all comments received. Comments requesting changes to the Plan and SEE will be reviewed for consistency with department goals and objectives, as well as technical accuracy, and considered for incorporation into the Plan or SEE.

Phase 2: Draft Plan Review

During the draft Plan phase, WisDOT will conduct the following activities.

- Release the draft Plan and specify the comment period, which will be no less than 30 days.
- Post the draft Plan and SEE and notify the media.
- Translate the final Plan summary materials into Spanish.
- Hold up to three Public Involvement Meetings throughout the state to review and obtain feedback the draft Plan and SEE.
- Meet with Tribal representatives to obtain their feedback on the draft Plan and SEE.
- Hold one follow-up consultation meeting with federal and state agencies as required by MAP-21 and the FAST Act to review the draft document.

- Schedule meetings with Environmental Justice populations to obtain feedback on the draft Plan and SEE.
- Follow up with MPO and RPC representatives to present the draft Plan and obtain their feedback.
- Inform Wisconsin legislators of the draft Plan recommendations.
- Develop informational materials about the Plan
- Provide in-person presentations, upon request.
- Provide oral and/or written translations, upon request.
- Collect, track, and review all comments received. Comments requesting changes to the Plan and/SEE will be reviewed for consistency with department goals and objectives, as well as technical accuracy, and considered for incorporation into the Plan or SEE.
- Document the comments received and WisDOT's response.

Individuals will have the opportunity to view the draft Plan and SEE at a public meeting, and comments may be submitted by email to highwayplan@dot.wi.gov or in writing to: Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan, WisDOT Bureau of Planning and Economic Development, P.O. Box 7913, Rm 901, Madison, WI 53707-7913.

Phase 3: Final Plan Adoption

During the final Plan Adoption phase, WisDOT will conduct the following activities.

- Release the final Plan and specify the comment period, which will be no less than 30 days.
- Develop informational materials about the final Plan.
- Provide in-person presentations, upon request.
- Hold up to two public hearings throughout the state on the final draft Plan and SEE and provide notice to stakeholders, Environmental Justice populations, and tribal governments of the time and place.
- Review the final Plan with the Freight Advisory Committee.
- Inform Wisconsin legislators of the final Plan recommendations.
- Obtain approval by the WisDOT Secretary to adopt the *Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan* and SEE.
- Publish the final adopted Plan and SEE on WisDOT's website.
- Distribute copies of the final adopted Plan and SEE to WisDOT Regional offices and state depositories per Wisconsin administrative code Trans 400. Copies will also be available upon request.
- Inform the media that the final Plan has been adopted and has been posted on WisDOT's website.

Information Availability

WisDOT will create and update a website exclusively for the *Wisconsin State Highway Investment Plan*. Draft and final printed materials will also be available upon request at WisDOT's Region Offices throughout the state and the library in WisDOT's central office in Madison.