

**Appendix H**  
**Coordination Plan for Agency and Public**  
**Involvement**

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**COORDINATION PLAN**  
**For**  
**AGENCY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

As part of the Environmental Review Process for

I-94 East-West Corridor Study  
(70<sup>th</sup> Street – 16<sup>th</sup> Street)  
Milwaukee County, WI  
WisDOT Project I.D. 1060-27-00, 1060-27-03



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Original Version – August 2012  
Revision #1 – November 2012  
Revision #2 – May 2013  
Revision #3 – April 2014  
Revision #4 – September 2014  
Revision #5 – October 2021  
Revision #6 – May 2022  
Revision #7 – July 2023

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# Revision History

This Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement is intended to be a dynamic document that will be available to stakeholders and updated as appropriate throughout the duration of the project. Below is a record of substantive changes made to this document.

The Lead Agencies will make the Coordination Plan available to other agencies and the public in the ways identified in Section 1.1. The Coordination Plan will be revised when important agency contact information changes (Table 2.3), when important coordination activities or actions described in the Coordination Plan change, or when the project schedule substantially changes (Table 4.1). Revisions and changes to the Coordination Plan will be communicated to agencies in a timely manner and shared with the public in ways identified in Section 1.1. Revisions or changes that impact Coordination Plan commitments made by other agencies must be agreeable to the affected agencies. Other revisions and changes to the Coordination Plan, not affecting commitments made by other agencies, will be forwarded to Cooperating and Participating Agencies for their acknowledgement and comment.

Coordination Plan Version	Date of Change	Revision Description
Revision #1	November 2012	<p>Added information on the new surface transportation bill, MAP 21, and how it changes the NEPA project development process.</p> <p>Table 2.3—Additional contacts included for Department of Veterans Affairs (National Cemetery Administration, Wood National Cemetery and Real Property Service).</p> <p>Table 4.1—Minor revisions to milestone schedule</p> <p>Table 7.1—Updates to list of project meetings</p>
Revision #2	May 2013	<p>Table 2.3 – Per request from NPS, status changed from Participating Agency to Cooperating Agency</p> <p>Table 4.1 – Minor revisions to milestone schedule</p> <p>Table 7.1 – Updates to list of project meetings</p>
Revision #3	April 2014	<p>Revisions to cover sheet, section 1.2 and location map (section 1.4) to reflect the extended east project terminus to 16<sup>th</sup> Street.</p> <p>Update to VA contact person in Table 2.3 (page 6).</p> <p>Table 4.1 – Revisions to milestones and schedule.</p> <p>Table 7.1 – Updates to list of project meetings</p>
Revision #4	September 2014	<p>Table 4.1 – Minor revisions to milestone schedule (inserted actual dates of meetings and noted 60-day comment period for Draft EIS)</p> <p>Table 7.1 – Updates to list of project meetings</p>
Revision #5	October 2021	<p>Overall updates were made in this revision to account for the Supplemental EIS. Specifically:</p> <p>Section 1.1 — Update regulation references</p> <p>Section 1.2 — Project Background update</p> <p>Table 2.3 — Updated contacts</p> <p>Table 4.1 — Revised Project Schedule to account for Supplemental EIS and updated milestone dates</p> <p>Section 7.1 – Updates to summary of project meetings</p>
Revision #6	May 2022	<p>Table 4.1 – Revisions to milestone schedule (inserted actual dates of meetings that took place since Revision</p>

		#5 and updated upcoming milestone dates to account for change in project schedule.
Revision #7	July 2023	Table 2.3 – Updates to contacts. Table 4.1 – Revisions to milestone schedule (inserted actual dates of meetings that took place since Revision #6 and updated upcoming milestone dates to account for change in project schedule.

# Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of Coordination Plan

This project's environmental review process must ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken. The purpose of this Coordination Plan is to communicate how and when the Lead Agencies will coordinate public and agency participation and comment in the environmental review process for the I-94 East-West Corridor Study.

This Coordination Plan outlines how the Lead Agencies have divided responsibilities for compliance with various aspects of the environmental review process such as the issuance of invitation letters, and how the Lead Agencies will provide opportunities for input from the public and other agencies. The Coordination Plan also identifies concurrence points and project milestones and establishes a schedule and timeframes for input and review by the Participating and Cooperating Agencies, as well as by the public and Native American Tribes.

Per 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 771.123 (Draft environmental impact statements), this Coordination Plan will be shared with the Federal, State, and local agencies, local units of government, and Native American Tribes who have expressed interest in the proposed project. Copies of the draft Coordination Plan will be sent to the interested parties for review and comment. A copy of the completed Coordination Plan will be shared with the public through the project website, at public involvement meetings, or by request. The Coordination Plan will be updated as necessary to reflect substantive changes to information it contains. Any changes will be documented in the Coordination Plan, agencies will have updated copies sent to them, and the public will be notified through the project website, at public involvement meetings, or by request.

This Coordination Plan is prepared in compliance with 23 U.S.C. 139 to describe the steps in the project's environmental review process. The environmental review process is described in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) environmental regulations, 23 CFR 771, and is in conformance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposed project was in the NEPA project development phase prior to September 14, 2020; therefore, per 40 CFR 1506.13, the project will continue to follow NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) that were in effect prior to September 14, 2020.

## 1.2 Project Background

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the I-94 East-West Corridor Study in Milwaukee County. The study area includes approximately 3.5 miles of the I-94 freeway from 70<sup>th</sup> Street (west limit) to 16<sup>th</sup> Street (east limit). The project includes the following interchanges: 68th Street/70th Street, Hawley Road, General Mitchell Boulevard, the Stadium Interchange (I-94/WIS 175/Brewers Boulevard), 35th Street, and 25th/26th/28th Street. The Bluemound Road/Wisconsin Avenue/ Wells Street interchange with WIS 175 is also included. See location map in item 1.4.

The freeway system in the study area provides a critical interstate link for commerce, tourism and commuters in the southeast region of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Metropolitan area. Due to high traffic volumes and outdated freeway mainline and interchange design, this portion of I-94 has a crash rate that is twice the average of similar roads in Wisconsin. Improvements are being proposed to accommodate existing and future traffic demand, improve traffic flow and operations, and to address safety concerns.

The 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan (Planning Report No. 49, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), June 2006) called for widening and/or other improvements to provide additional capacity in the I-94 corridor through Milwaukee County. In November 2011, under Wisconsin's legislative process for major highway projects, the Transportation Projects Commission approved moving ahead with the environmental study phase for this project so it can be considered for future funding enumeration.

SEWRPC's Vision 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin (Planning Report No. 55, SEWRPC, July 2017) called for I-94 in the study area to be widened with additional traffic lanes. This was confirmed in the 2020 Review and Update of Vision 2050 (SEWRPC, December 2020).

The EIS discusses project purpose and need, alternatives considered (including a no build alternative), the affected environment, environmental consequences of the proposed action, and the results of coordination with agencies and the public. The EIS also demonstrates compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and was made available for public review.

The FHWA issued the Record of Decision in September 2016 but rescinded it at WisDOT's request due to lack of available funding in October 2017.

In July 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers announced that WisDOT would seek federal approval to resume the I-94 East-West Project. On April 15, 2021, WisDOT announced that to ensure decisions on the project were based on the best, most recent data and public input, a Supplemental EIS would be completed for the project. The Supplemental EIS will identify any changes in project area conditions, including changes in traffic patterns resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, laws and regulations; and to allow for more public input, that would modify the assessment of impacts, environmental compliance, and commitments as presented in the January 2016 Final EIS. On June 15, 2021, a Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register formally announcing that a supplemental environmental impact statement would be prepared for this project.

### **1.3 Agency Coordination Prior to the Coordination Plan**

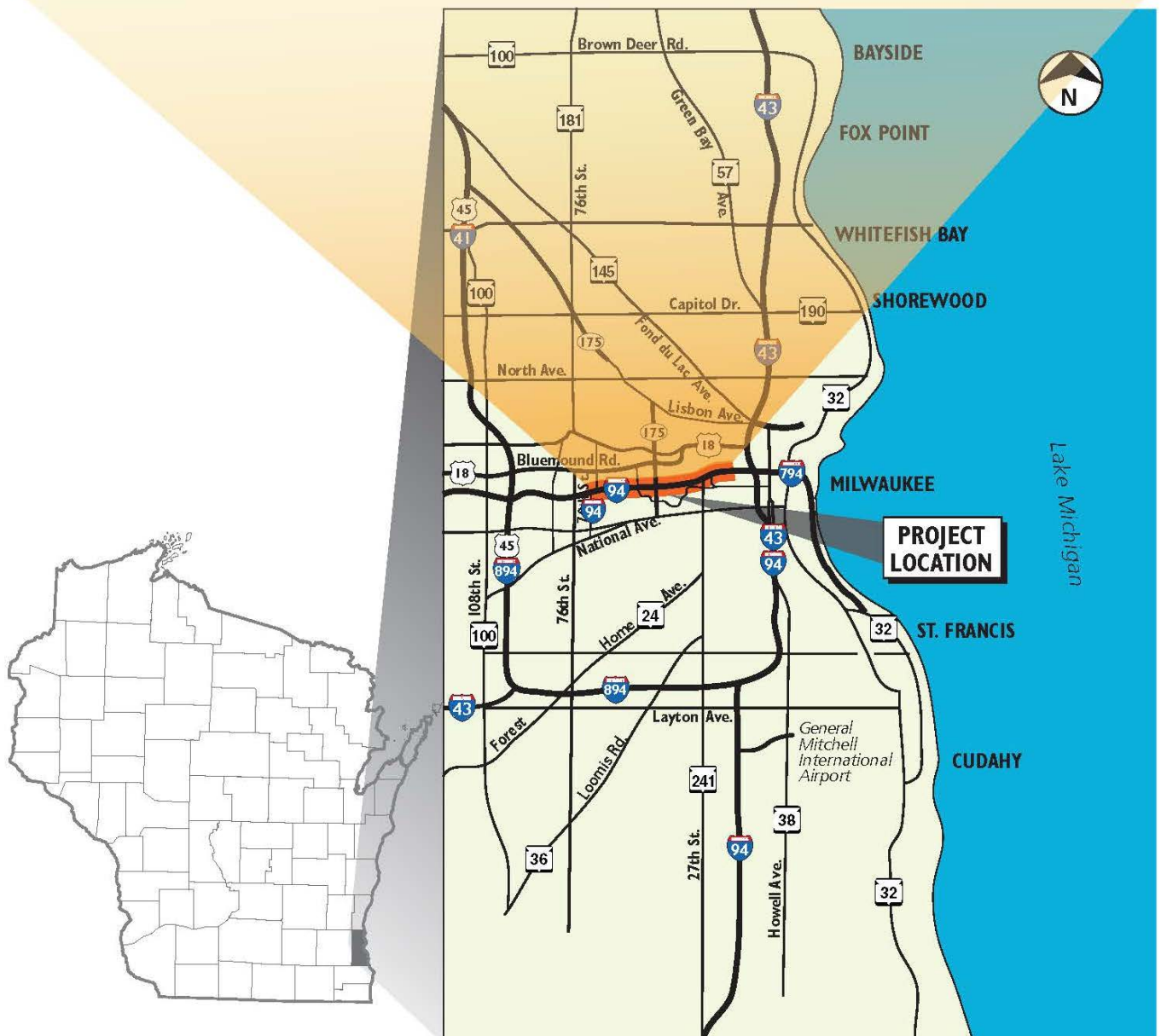
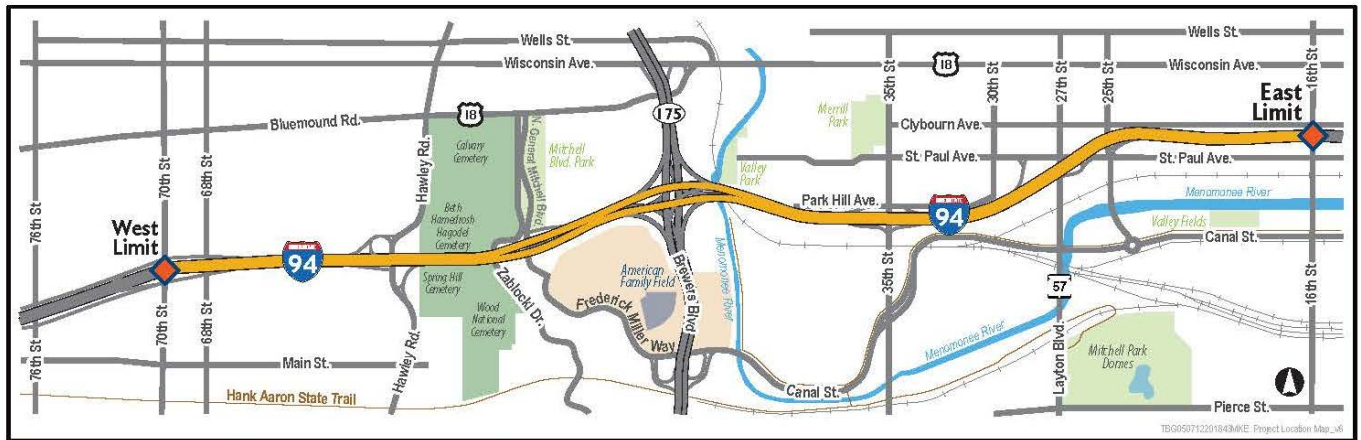
In April 2012, WisDOT sent letters to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to initiate coordination regarding federal and state listed threatened or endangered species located in the study area. At that time, FWS noted that no federally-listed, proposed, or candidate species, or designated critical habitat occurs within the study area. FWS did advise checking their website every 6 months to ensure the information regarding the absence of listed species is current.<sup>1</sup> The DNR responded with a map and table of known occurrences of rare species and natural communities in the project area.

Additionally, the Department of Veterans Affairs was contacted in May 2012 and given a project briefing over the telephone. The National Park Service was contacted in August 2012 and given a project briefing over the telephone. Also in August 2012 the DNR provided an initial list of issues for WisDOT to be aware of as the study progresses.

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<sup>1</sup> In March 2022, WisDOT used FWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool to identify federally protected species and critical habitat in the re-evaluation study area. IPaC indicated the possible presence of the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*), rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), and Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) in the study area. The NLEB was listed in the 2016 Final EIS. As part of the Supplemental EIS, WisDOT will continue to coordinate with FWS.

# 1.4 Project Location Map





# Agency Roles – Lead/Cooperating/Participating

## 2.1 Agency Definitions and Responsibilities

The standard responsibilities for each Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agency invited to participate in the environmental review process for this project are as follows:

**Lead Agency:** USDOT-Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the Federal Lead Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is the State Lead Agency for this project. As “Joint Lead Agencies”, their responsibilities include managing the environmental review and documentation process, preparing the EIS, and providing opportunities for public and Participating/Cooperating Agency involvement.

As the Federal Lead Agency, FHWA will invite other affected or interested federal agencies and Native American Tribes to participate in the project’s environmental review process. The State Lead Agency (WisDOT) will invite other affected or interested state and local agencies to participate in the process. WisDOT is responsible for investigating project alternatives, implementing the environmental review process and preparing the environmental document. FHWA must oversee the environmental review process and concur that the process, as implemented by WisDOT, satisfies applicable federal laws and guidance.

**Cooperating Agency:** Any federal agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative may be a Cooperating Agency. State or local agencies with similar qualifications, or Native American Tribes when the effects are on lands of tribal interest, may also become Cooperating Agencies by agreement with the Lead Agencies.

Cooperating Agencies shall use their knowledge and expertise to assist the lead agencies in identifying issues of concern regarding the project’s potential impacts and provide meaningful and timely input throughout the environmental review process. A Cooperating Agency’s failure to respond in a timely manner will be indication that the Lead Agencies have fulfilled the coordination step with the agency for that issue. Cooperating Agencies may adopt the Lead Agency’s final environmental document to fulfill their environmental documentation requirements for issuing permits or other approvals. Agencies invited to be Cooperating Agencies for the I-94 East-West Corridor Study are identified in Table 2.3.

**Participating Agency:** Participating Agencies include federal, state or local agencies that have an interest in the project. These agencies agree to identify issues of concern regarding the project’s potential impacts and provide meaningful and timely input on purpose and need, range of alternatives, and impact analysis methodologies. Agencies invited to be Participating Agencies for the I-94 East-West Corridor Study are identified in Table 2.3.

## 2.2 DOT-DNR Cooperative Agreement

Chapter 30 of the Wisconsin Statutes (Navigable Waters, Harbors and Navigation), Section 30.2022 (Activities of Department of Transportation) establishes an alternative process for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to interact on State transportation projects. State transportation projects are coordinated with and reviewed by DNR through interdepartmental liaison procedures under the Cooperative Agreement between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The Cooperative Agreement process engages both agencies in progressive discussions and reviews throughout development of transportation projects and culminates in a “concurrence letter” from DNR at the conclusion of final design activities. Coordination with and concurrence from DNR during this project’s environmental review process precedes and supplements DNR’s review and concurrence role during the final design process. WisDOT will not commence construction activities until DNR concurrence on final design is received. The Cooperative Agreement was renewed on June 1, 2020.

Nothing in this Coordination Plan or the 23 U.S.C. 139 environmental review process is designed or intended to replace or supplant the steps, activities or expectations expressed in the DOT-DNR Cooperative Agreement, nor does participation in this environmental review process in any way affect DNR’s need or ability to perform review and provide concurrence during final design activities.

## 2.3 List of Agencies, Contacts, and Roles

The intent of coordination with federal, state, and local agencies as well as interested Native American Tribes is to cooperatively identify important environmental or cultural resources and potential impacts and to resolve issues that could delay the environmental process or that could result in denial of approvals required to implement the proposed project. A more complete list of agency expectations is included in Section 3.1.

The agencies and Native American Tribes listed in Table 2.3 have been identified as lead, Cooperating and/or Participating Agencies or potentially interested Native American Tribes. All of the agencies and Native American Tribes noted in the table were invited by FHWA or WisDOT to be Participating and/or Cooperating Agencies. Additional agencies can be invited and added to the list of participants at any time, as appropriate.

**Table 2.3 Lead/Cooperating/Participating Agencies**

Agency Name	Contact Person Name/Address/Phone Number	Project Role
<b>Federal Agencies</b>		
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Bethaney Bacher-Gresock Environmental Program/Project Specialist Federal Highway Administration 525 Junction Road, Suite 8000 Madison, WI 53717 (608) 662-2119 Bethaney.Bacher-Gresock@dot.gov	Federal Lead Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	A.J. Kitchen U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 250 N. Sunnyslope Rd., Suite 296 Brookfield, WI, 53005 (262) 641-5498 Anthony.j.kitchen@usace.army.mil	Invited Cooperating Agency (7/2/12) <b>Accepted</b> (7/25/12)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	Mike Sedlacek Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 NEPA Implementation Section (Mail Code E-19) 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604 (312) 886-2910 sedlacek.michael@epa.gov R5NEPA@epa.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12) <b>Accepted</b> (7/10/12)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Darin Simpkins U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office 2661 Scott Tower Drive New Franken, WI 54229 920-866-1739 Darin_Simpkins@fws.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12) <b>Declined</b> (7/26/12)
National Park Service	Christine Gabriel Regional Environmental Coordinator, Regions 3/4/5 Custom House Room 244 200 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 (402) 661-1736 Christine_gabriel@nps.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12) <b>Accepted</b> (7/6/12) Per 5/9/13 e-mail to WisDOT, NPS requested being listed as a Cooperating Agency
Department of Veterans Affairs	Michael Mullen Program Specialist, Historical Liaison Community Engagement and Relations Division Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center 5000 West National Ave Milwaukee, WI 53295 PH: 414-384-2000 x45716 Michael.Mullen4@va.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)

Agency Name	Contact Person Name/Address/Phone Number	Project Role
Department of Veterans Affairs (National Cemetery Administration)	Michael Carcanague National Cemetery Administration 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 495 Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 409-1634 Michael.Carcanague@VA.GOV	Invited Participating Agency (at meeting on 8/30/12) Accepted (8/30/12)
Department of Veterans Affairs (Wood National Cemetery)	Ms. Quincy McCall Wood National Cemetery 5000 West National Avenue, Bldg. 1301 Milwaukee, WI 53295-4000 (414) 382-5300 Quincy.Whitehead@va.gov	Invited Participating Agency (at meeting on 8/30/12) Accepted (8/30/12)
Department of Veterans Affairs (Real Property Service)	Matthew Leddy, Esq. Director Land Acquisition and Strategic Utilization Office of Construction & Facilities Management U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 425 I St. NW Washington DC 20001 (202) 382-2715 Matthew.Leddy@va.gov	Invited Participating Agency (at meeting on 8/30/12) Accepted (8/30/12)
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Timothy J. Guyah Bureau of Indian Affairs – Midwest Regional Office Norman Pointe II Building 5600 W. American Blvd., Suite 500 Bloomington, MN 55437 (612) 725-4512 Timothy.Guyah@bia.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
<b>State Agencies</b>		
Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)	Chris Zacharias WisDOT Southeast Region Office 141 NW Barstow St. Waukesha, WI 53187 (414) 750-4955 Christopher.Zacharias@dot.wi.gov	State Lead Agency
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Matthew Matrise Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Central Office 1027 West ST. Paul Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233 (262) 933-5233 Matthew.matrise@wi.gov	Invited Cooperating Agency (6/28/12) <b>Accepted (7/30/12)</b> <b>Requested change from cooperating to participating agency (1/6/23)</b>
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Kimberly Cook Wisconsin Historical Society 816 State Street Madison, WI 53706 (608) 264-6493 Kimberly.Cook@wisconsinhistory.org	Invited Participating Agency (6/28/12)

Agency Name	Contact Person Name/Address/Phone Number	Project Role
<b>Native American Tribes</b>		
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	Mike Wiggins, Jr. Tribal Chair PO Box 39 Odanah, WI 54861 (715) 682-7111 mikew@badriver-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin	Ned Daniels Tribal Chair PO Box 340 Crandon, WI 54520 (715) 478-7200 ned.danielsjr@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Ho-Chunk Nation	Marlon WhiteEagle President PO Box 667 Black River Falls, WI 54615 (715) 284-9343 marlon.whiteeagle@ho-chunk.com	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Louis Taylor Tribal Chair 11394 West Trepenia Road Hayward, WI 54843 (715) 634-8934 louis.taylor@lco-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Joseph Wildcat, Sr. President PO Box 67 Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538 (715) 588-3303 jwildcatsr@ldftribe.com	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Menominee Nation	Joan Delabreau Tribal Chair W2908 Tribal Office Loop, PO Box 910 Keshena, WI 54135-0910 (715) 799-5114 chairman@mitw.org	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians	Shannon Holsey President N8476 Mo He Con Nuck Road, PO Box 70 Bowler, WI 54416 (715) 793-4111 shannon.holsey@mohican-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin	Tehassi Hill Tribal Chair PO Box 365 Oneida, WI 54155-0365 (920) 869-4040 thill7@oneidanation.org	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)

<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Contact Person Name/Address/Phone Number</b>	<b>Project Role</b>
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Christopher Boyd Tribal Chair 88455 Pike Road, Hwy. 13 Bayfield, WI 54814 (715) 779-3700 chris.boyd@redcliff-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
St. Croix Chippewa Community	William Reynolds Tribal Chair 24663 Angeline Avenue Webster, WI 54893 (715) 349-2195 williamr@stcroixojibwe-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band	Garland McGeshick Tribal Chair 3051 Sand Lake Road Crandon, WI 54520 (715) 478-7500 garland.mcgeschick@scc-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	James Williams Jr. Tribal Chair N4698 US 45 Watersmeet, MI 49969 906-358-4577 jim.williams@lvd-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation	Joseph Rupnick Tribal Chair 16281 Q Road Mayetta, KS 66509 785-966-4008 josephrupnick@pbpnation.org	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska	Tiauna Carnes Tribal Chair 305 N. Main Street Reserve, KS 66434 tiauna.carnes@sacandfoxks.com	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma	Justin Freeland Wood Principal Chief 920883 S. Highway 99 Building A Stroud, OK 74079 918-968-3526 justinwood@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa	Judith Bender Tribal Chairwoman 349 Meskwaki Road Tama, IA 52339 (641) 484-4678 adminast.council@meskwaki-nsn.gov	Invited Participating Agency (7/2/12)
<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Contact Person Name/Address/Phone Number</b>	<b>Project Role</b>
<b>Local Officials</b>		

Milwaukee County	David Crowley Milwaukee County Executive Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street, Room 306 Milwaukee, WI 53233 (414) 278-4211 countyexec@milwcnty.com	Invited Participating Agency (6/28/12) <b>Accepted</b> (7/26/12)
City of Milwaukee	Cavalier Johnson Mayor Milwaukee City Hall, Room 201 200 E. Wells Street Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 286-2200 mayor@milwaukee.gov	Invited Participating Agency (6/28/12) <b>Accepted</b> (7/25/12)
Village of West Milwaukee	John Stalewski President Village of West Milwaukee 4755 West Beloit Road West Milwaukee, WI 53214 (414) 645-1530, Ext. 126 John.Stalewski@westmilwaukee.org	Invited Participating Agency (6/28/12)
City of Wauwatosa	Dennis McBride Mayor City of Wauwatosa – City Hall 7725 W. North Avenue Wauwatosa, WI 53213 (414) 479-8915 mayor@wauwatosa.net	Invited Participating Agency (6/28/12)
City of West Allis	Dan Devine Mayor City of West Allis – City Hall 7525 W. Greenfield Avenue, Room 123 West Allis, WI 53214 (414) 302-8290 ddevine@westalliswi.gov	Invited Participating Agency (6/28/12) <b>Accepted</b> (7/2/12)
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)	Benjamin McKay Interim Executive Director W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive Waukesha, WI 53187-1607 (262) 953-3229 bmckay@sewrpc.org	Invited Participating Agency (6/28/12) <b>Accepted</b> (7/3/12)

# Concurrence and Coordination Points and Agency Responsibilities

## 3.1 Agency Expectations

### The expectations for Lead Agencies are:

- Manage and coordinate the environmental review process, ensuring that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken.
- Prepare the environmental document in accordance with 23 CFR part 771 (FHWA Environmental Impact and Related Procedures) and 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 (Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA).
- Facilitate the environmental review process, ensure required documentation is completed in compliance with NEPA and other applicable law, and consider and respond to comments received from participating agencies on matters within the expertise or jurisdiction of those agencies. Identify and involve Cooperating and Participating Agencies.
- Develop and maintain current, the Coordination Plan.
- Provide opportunity for public and agency involvement in defining the purpose and need, alternatives carried forward for detailed study, and identification of a preferred alternative.
- Collaborate with Cooperating and Participating Agencies in determining Impact Analysis Methodologies and the level of detail for the analysis of alternatives.
- Consult with and involve Tribal governments in compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Manage and facilitate the process of resolving issues.

### The expectations for Cooperating Agencies are:

- Assist the Lead Agencies in identifying environmental or cultural resources of concern.
- Identify as early as practicable any issue or concern regarding the project's environmental, cultural or socioeconomic impacts.
- Identify as early as practicable any issues that could substantially delay or prevent the granting of permits or other approvals needed for the project.
- Share information that may be useful to the Joint Lead Agencies, Cooperating and Participating Agencies.
- Participate in meetings and field reviews.
- Provide timely concurrence at milestones for purpose and need, alternatives carried forward for detailed study, and identification of a preferred alternative.
- Provide timely comments on the Coordination Plan, Impact Analysis Methodologies, and potential project impacts as agreed to and reflected in Section 4 of this Coordination Plan.
- Review and comment on Draft EIS (or Supplemental Draft EIS); review Final EIS (or Supplemental Final EIS) if the Lead Agencies do not prepare a combined Final EIS/ROD (or Supplemental Final EIS/ROD).
- Participate as needed in issues resolution activities.

### The expectations for Participating Agencies are:

- Assist the Lead Agencies in identifying environmental or cultural resources of concern.
- Identify as early as practicable any issue or concern regarding the project's environmental, cultural or socioeconomic impacts.
- Share information that may be useful to the Lead Agencies, Cooperating and Participating Agencies.

- Participate in meetings and field reviews as appropriate and invited.
- Provide comments on purpose and need, Coordination Plan, Impact Analysis Methodologies, project alternatives and potential impacts in a timely manner, and as agreed to and reflected in Section 4 of this Coordination Plan.
- Review and comment on Draft EIS (or Supplemental Draft EIS); review Final EIS (or Supplemental Final EIS) if the Lead Agencies do not prepare a combined Final EIS/ROD (or Supplemental Final EIS/ROD).
- Participate as needed in issues resolution activities.

### **3.2 Concurrence and Coordination Points, Information Requirements, and Responsibilities**

To facilitate public and agency involvement in the environmental review process for the I-94 East-West Corridor Study, several coordination and concurrence points have been established. Coordination points ("check-in" points for a set of activities) occur when project review activities or milestones will result in important decisions affecting the environmental review process and its outcome. Concurrence points are steps in the environmental review process for which the Lead Agencies will request formal written agreement from Cooperating Agencies, and in some cases Participating Agencies, on finalizing certain decisions or outputs, and moving forward.

Coordination points will involve exchanges of information and opinions between the Lead Agencies, Participating and Cooperating Agencies, and the public. This information exchange will often be accomplished by mail or email but may also occur through agency or public involvement meetings. Coordination points with agencies are typically established for the following activities:

- Project scoping activities
- Development of purpose and need statement
- Identification of the range of alternatives to be studied
- Collaboration on Impact Analysis Methodologies
- Completion of the Draft EIS
- Identification of the preferred alternative and the level of design detail
- Mitigation measures
- Completion of the Final EIS (if a combined Final EIS/ROD is not prepared)
- Completion of the combined Final EIS/ROD or ROD; selection of the alternative to be implemented

Concurrence is a written agreement by a Cooperating or Participating Agency that the information to date is adequate to agree that the project can be advanced to the next stage of project development. Agencies agree not to revisit the previous process steps unless conditions change. Concurrence by an agency at a concurrence point does not imply that the project has been approved by that agency or that it has released its obligation to determine whether the fully developed project meets statutory review criteria. There are three formal concurrence points in the process:

- Final Purpose and Need statement for the project
- Alternatives to be carried forward for detailed study
- Identification of the preferred alternative for addressing project purpose and need

The Project Schedule in Section 4 lists the Coordination Plan's key concurrence and coordination points including which agency is responsible for activities during specific points, the information required at each point, and who is responsible for transmitting the information.

As part of the Supplemental EIS process, Cooperating and Participating Agencies will be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the project's purpose and need elements and range of alternatives. These agencies will be provided copies of a summary memo of the project's purpose and need and a summary memo of the range of alternatives prior to completion of the entire document. A meeting with the agencies will take place to review the memos and answer questions.

### **3.3 Issue Identification and Resolution Process**

Section 23 U.S.C. 139(h) identifies issue identification and resolution with three distinct processes: 1) to accelerate interim decision making prior to the Record of Decision, 2) involving a revised issue resolution and referral process, and 3) prescribing penalties to Federal agencies for not making decisions within prescribed



timelines. FHWA will develop guidance to address the implementation of these processes and make changes to the Coordination Plan as needed.

The Lead Agencies, Cooperating and Participating Agencies will work cooperatively to identify and resolve issues that could delay completion of the environmental review process or that could result in denial of any approvals required for the project under applicable laws.

Based on information received from the Lead Agencies, Cooperating and Participating Agencies shall identify as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, cultural or socioeconomic impacts. Issues of concern include any issues that could substantially delay or prevent concurrence, the granting of permits or other approvals needed to implement the project.

Dispute resolution will be implemented when there is failure to reach concurrence at a concurrence point or there is substantial disagreement at a critical decision point. The resolution process will first consist of an informal attempt by the lead agencies to reach concurrence/agreement among Cooperating/Participating Agencies. Participants will include a representative of each of the Federal agencies and appropriate State agencies. Each agency shall make its best effort to resolve disputes. Within 30 days of an agency identifying non-concurrence at a critical decision point, a "formal dispute resolution" meeting of designated agency representatives will be convened.

Formal dispute resolution meetings will be convened at an agreed upon location and time. At this meeting an attempt will be made to resolve agency concerns through consensus. This may include providing information or detail not previously provided. If the concerns are resolved at this meeting, the process is ended, and the concurrence is formalized in the agreed upon manner.

The environmental review and documentation process may continue whether or not attempts to reach concurrence are successful. However, if the dispute remains unresolved, the agency in non-concurrence retains its options to elevate its concerns through existing, formalized dispute elevation procedures at the appropriate point in the environmental review or permitting process.

# Project Schedule

## 4.1 Project Schedule and Negotiated Timeframes

The major milestones, coordination and concurrence points in the project’s environmental review process are listed in Table 4.1 along with the timeframes in which they are anticipated to occur (actual dates listed where applicable). The listed timeframes must be discussed and negotiated with Cooperating and Participating Agencies and should not appear in this table as “final” until affected agencies agree they are appropriate and achievable. By agreeing to the timeframes listed below, agencies accept their responsibility to provide appropriate input and feedback within the allotted time.

**Table 4.1**

Step No.	Milestone, Coordination or Concurrence Point	Information Provided or Action Taken	Who Contacted for Response	Information or Action Requested	Number of Days to Complete Activity	Estimated Date of Completion
1	Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare EIS/proposed project scope	NOI to prepare EIS/proposed project scope	Cooperating and Participating Agencies through Federal Register notice	NOI to prepare EIS/proposed project scope published in Federal Register	7 calendar days	May 18, 2012 (actual) <sup>2</sup>
2	Invitation letters sent to potential Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Letters of invitation to be Cooperating or Participating Agencies	Potentially interested Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Written acceptance or reason for non-acceptance	30 calendar days	June, 2012 (actual)
3	Agency Scoping Meeting	Discussion of draft CP and IAM; preliminary purpose and need; initial range of alternatives	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on draft CP and IAM, preliminary purpose and need, initial range of alternatives	30 calendar days	July 17, 2012 (actual)
4	Public involvement meeting #1  Public input on draft CP and IAM plans, purpose and need, and initial range of alternatives	Availability of draft CP and IAM, information on preliminary purpose and need and initial range of alternatives	Cooperating and Participating Agencies, tribes, public, local officials, Native American Tribes, and other stakeholders	Provide comments on draft CP, IAM, purpose and need factors, and initial range of alternatives	30 calendar days	August 21, 2012 & August 23, 2012 (actual)
5	Draft Coordination Plan (CP) and draft Impact Analysis Methodology (IAM) sent to potential Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Opportunity to comment on Draft CP and IAM	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Agency input on draft CP and IAM	30 calendar days	August 28-August 31, 2012 (actual)
6	Draft purpose and need statement	Draft purpose and need statement for review	Cooperating and Participating Agencies  Posted on project website for public review	Provide comments on purpose and need (Draft EIS Section 1)	30 calendar days	November 2, 2012 (actual)

<sup>2</sup> A revised NOI was published in the Federal Register on August 28, 2013 to account for the refined east terminus (changed from 25<sup>th</sup> Street to 16<sup>th</sup> Street).

**Table 4.1**

<b>Step No.</b>	<b>Milestone, Coordination or Concurrence Point</b>	<b>Information Provided or Action Taken</b>	<b>Who Contacted for Response</b>	<b>Information or Action Requested</b>	<b>Number of Days to Complete Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Date of Completion</b>
7	Final CP and IAM with follow up as needed	Final CP and IAM	Cooperating and Participating Agencies  Posted on project website for public review	Review for acceptance or reply on issues to be resolved	30 calendar days	November 2012 (actual)
8	<b>Concurrence Point #1</b> Agency meeting or other contact on purpose and need	Discuss purpose and need statement	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Review for acceptance or reply on issues to be resolved	30 calendar days (Preliminary information sent 30 days prior to meeting)	November-December 2012 (actual)
9	Public involvement meeting #2  Public input on draft CP and IAM and initial range of alternatives	Availability of CP and IAM and initial range of alternatives through media releases, project website, and PIM	Cooperating and Participating Agencies, public, local officials, Native American Tribes, and other stakeholders	Provide comments on CP and IAM, purpose and need, and range of alternatives	30 calendar days	December 5, 2012 and December 6, 2012 (actual)
10	Public involvement meeting #3  Continued input on range of alternatives being considered	Availability of information on alternatives through media releases, project website, and PIM; revised CP also available	Cooperating and Participating Agencies, public, local officials, Native American Tribes, and other stakeholders	Provide comments on alternatives	PIM comments ± 2 weeks after PIM (typical)	May 21, 2013 and May 22, 2013 (actual)
11	Provide range of alternatives considered and those retained for detailed study in Draft EIS	Range of alternatives to be considered; identify alternatives that will be retained for detailed study	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on range of alternatives and those retained for detailed study (Draft EIS Sec. 2)	30 calendar days	May 30, 2013 (actual)
12	Public involvement meeting #4	Present refined range of alternatives to be retained for detailed evaluation in Draft EIS	Public, local officials and other stakeholders	Provide comments on refined range of alternatives	PIM comments ± 2 weeks after PIM (typical)	July 30, 2013 and July 31, 2013 (actual)
13	Agency meeting (webinar) on range of alternatives	Provide update on alternatives	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide input	During meeting	January 29, 2014 (actual)
14	Agency meeting (in person or webinar) on alternatives update	Provide update on alternatives	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide input	During meeting	June 11, 2014 (actual)
15	Public involvement meeting #5	Update on alternatives to be evaluated in Draft EIS, anticipated impacts, potential mitigation measures	Public, local officials and other stakeholders	Provide comments on alternatives to be evaluated in Draft EIS, impacts, mitigation measures	30 calendar days	June 16, 2014 and June 17, 2014 (actual)
16	<b>Concurrence Point #2</b> Agency meeting or other contact on range of alternatives considered	Discuss range of alternatives considered and alternatives that will be retained for detailed evaluation in Draft EIS	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on alternatives and WisDOT recommended alternative if one is identified at this time	30 calendar days (Preliminary information sent 30 days prior to coordination meeting or other contact)	July 2014 (actual)

**Table 4.1**

<b>Step No.</b>	<b>Milestone, Coordination or Concurrence Point</b>	<b>Information Provided or Action Taken</b>	<b>Who Contacted for Response</b>	<b>Information or Action Requested</b>	<b>Number of Days to Complete Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Date of Completion</b>
17	Draft EIS filed with EPA; availability notice published in Federal Register	Draft EIS	EPA filing section	Availability of Draft EIS published in Federal Register	14 calendar days	November 14, 2014 (actual; amended January 2, 2015)
18	Draft EIS circulated for review and comment	Draft EIS availability through distribution to Cooperating and Participating Agencies, local officials and others on EIS mailing list, and through media announcements, project website and other sources	Cooperating and Participating Agencies, local officials, other stakeholders, and public	Review Draft EIS, provide comments	60 calendar days after Draft EIS Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register  At the request of the City of Milwaukee, the comment period was extended by 14 days (total comment period of 74 days)	November 2014 (actual; Draft EIS Circulated for review)  January 27, 2015 (actual; Draft EIS comment period ended)
19	Public hearing on Draft EIS with follow up as needed	Discuss purpose and need, alternatives, recommended alternative and anticipated impacts	Public, local officials, Native American Tribes, Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on purpose and need, alternatives, recommended alternative and anticipated impacts	Draft EIS must be made available to the public for a minimum of 15 days in advance of the public hearing	December 3, 2014 and December 4, 2014 (actual)
20	<b>Concurrence Point #3</b> Agency meeting or other contact on preferred alternative with anticipated impacts and follow up as needed	Discuss preferred alternative, anticipated impacts, proposed mitigation measures	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on preferred alternative, anticipated impacts, proposed mitigation measures	30 calendar days (Preliminary information sent 30 days prior to meeting)	March 2015 (actual)
21	Final EIS filed with EPA; availability notice published in Federal Register	Final EIS	EPA filing section	Availability of Final EIS published in Federal Register	14 calendar days	February 12, 2016 (actual; amended 3/4/2016)
22	Final EIS circulated for review and comment	Final EIS availability through distribution to Cooperating and Participating Agencies, local officials and others on EIS mailing list, and through media announcements, project website and other sources	Public, local officials, Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Review Final EIS, provide comments	30 calendar days from notice of Final EIS in Federal Register (minimum)	March 14, 2016 extended to April 15, 2016 (actual)
23	Record of Decision (ROD) issued	ROD availability through distribution to Cooperating and Participating Agencies, and through local media announcements, project website and/or other sources	Cooperating and Participating Agencies and as deemed appropriate, local officials and the public	Acknowledge receipt of ROD	30 calendar days from notice of Final EIS in Federal Register or 90 calendar days from notice of Draft EIS in Federal Register, whichever is later	September 9, 2016 (actual)

**Table 4.1**

<b>Step No.</b>	<b>Milestone, Coordination or Concurrence Point</b>	<b>Information Provided or Action Taken</b>	<b>Who Contacted for Response</b>	<b>Information or Action Requested</b>	<b>Number of Days to Complete Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Date of Completion</b>
24	Statute of Limitations (SOL) notice published in Federal Register announcing final action has been taken (Final EIS/ROD) in NEPA phase	SOL notice	Federal Register	SOL published in Federal Register announcing final action taken (Final EIS/ROD) in NEPA phase	7 calendar days for SOL notice publication; 150 calendar days to file a claim	October 7, 2016 (actual; notice published)
25	Record of Decision rescinded	FHWA issued notice that the ROD is rescinded	Federal Register	Notice of rescission of the ROD published in Federal Register	Effective immediately	October 11, 2017 (actual; notice published)
26	Public involvement meeting #6	Project background, continue communication between WisDOT, local residents, and businesses, and provide firsthand information about project content, milestones, and next steps	Public, local officials and other stakeholders	Provide comments on alternatives to be evaluated in Draft EIS, impacts, mitigation measures	30 calendar days	March 16, 2021 (actual)
27	Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare Supplemental EIS	NOI to prepare Supplemental EIS	Cooperating and Participating Agencies through Federal Register notice	NOI to prepare Supplemental EIS published in Federal Register	7 calendar days	June 15, 2021 (actual)
28	Agency meeting (virtual); project update and intro to SEIS coordination process and updated Agency Coordination Plan	Opportunity to comment on Updated CP	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide input	29 calendar days	October 2, 2021 (actual)
29	Agency review of revised purpose and need	Review purpose and need elements	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on purpose and need elements	30 calendar days	September 21, 2021 – October 15, 2021 (actual)
30	Public involvement meeting #7	Purpose and need update, alternatives discussion	Public, local officials and other stakeholders	Provide comments on alternatives, purpose and need, impacts, mitigation measures	30 calendar days	December 8, 2021 and December 9, 2021 (actual)

**Table 4.1**

<b>Step No.</b>	<b>Milestone, Coordination or Concurrence Point</b>	<b>Information Provided or Action Taken</b>	<b>Who Contacted for Response</b>	<b>Information or Action Requested</b>	<b>Number of Days to Complete Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Date of Completion</b>
31	<b>Concurrence Point #4</b> Agency review of revised range of alternatives considered	Review revised range of alternatives considered and alternatives that will be retained for detailed evaluation in Supplemental Draft EIS	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on alternatives and WisDOT recommended alternative if one is identified at this time	30 calendar days (Preliminary information sent 30 days prior to coordination meeting or other contact)	June 2022 (actual)
32	<b>Concurrence Point #5</b> Agency meeting or other contact on preferred alternative with anticipated impacts and follow up as needed	Discuss preferred alternative, anticipated impacts, proposed mitigation measures	Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on preferred alternative, anticipated impacts, proposed mitigation measures	30 calendar days (Preliminary information sent 30 days prior to meeting)	November 2022 (actual)
33	Supplemental Draft EIS filed with EPA; availability notice published in Federal Register	Supplemental Draft EIS	EPA filing section	Availability of Supplemental Draft EIS published in Federal Register	14 calendar days	November 18, 2022 (actual)
34	Supplemental Draft EIS circulated for review and comment	Supplemental Draft EIS availability through distribution to Cooperating and Participating Agencies, local officials and others on EIS mailing list, and through media announcements, project website and other sources	Cooperating and Participating Agencies, local officials, other stakeholders, and public	Review Supplemental Draft EIS, provide comments	60 calendar days after Supplemental Draft EIS Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register Note: A 15-day extension to the comment period was requested and granted.	November 18, 2022 – January 31, 2023 (actual)
35	Public hearing on Supplemental Draft EIS with follow up as needed	Discuss purpose and need, alternatives, recommended alternative, and anticipated impacts	Public, local officials, Native American Tribes, Cooperating and Participating Agencies	Provide comments on purpose and need, alternatives, recommended alternative, and anticipated impacts	Supplemental Draft EIS must be made available to the public for a minimum of 15 days in advance of the public hearing	December 12, 2022 and December 14, 2022 (actual)
36	Supplemental Final EIS/ROD filed with EPA;	Supplemental Final EIS/ROD	EPA filing section	Availability of Supplemental Final EIS/ROD published in Federal Register	14 calendar days	October 2023

**Table 4.1**

<b>Step No.</b>	<b>Milestone, Coordination or Concurrence Point</b>	<b>Information Provided or Action Taken</b>	<b>Who Contacted for Response</b>	<b>Information or Action Requested</b>	<b>Number of Days to Complete Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Date of Completion</b>
37	Statute of Limitations (SOL) notice published in Federal Register announcing final action has been taken (Final EIS/ROD) in NEPA phase	SOL notice	Federal Register	SOL published in Federal Register announcing final action taken (Final EIS/ROD) in NEPA phase	7 calendar days for SOL notice publication; 150 calendar days to file a claim	November 2023
38	Final concurrence in project contract-level mitigation measures	Proposed mitigation measures for commitments made in Final EIS/ROD, final design, and/or during individual agency contacts	Coordination with Cooperating and Participating Agencies as deemed appropriate	Provide comments and/or process approval requests on proposed environmental commitments and mitigation measures	Approx. 3-6 months in advance of proposed contract letting dates)	Prior to Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E)
39	Implementation of mitigation commitments in Final EIS/ ROD	Mitigation commitments in Final EIS/ROD	Coordinate with Cooperating and Participating Agencies as deemed appropriate	Provide comments and recommendations, and/or process approval requests on proposed mitigation commitments	Un-programmed (time as needed)	Ongoing until construction complete, project closed

# Public Involvement Process

## 5.1 Public Involvement

Public involvement includes engaging key stakeholders, community members and the general public in the planning, design and development of proposed improvements. The general public involvement approach is based on the following objectives:

- Actively seek public input on the project's purpose and need, alternatives, and recommended course of action.
- Solicit, consider, answer and document public inquiries, suggestions, ideas, and concerns in the decision-making process.
- Provide opportunities for the public to affect major decisions before those decisions are made.
- Publicize project activities through a variety of communication venues such as newsletters, news releases, project website and informational meetings.
- Provide the public with efficient access to project information.

## 5.2 Identification of Environmental Justice Communities and Outreach

The most recent U.S. Census Bureau or American Community Survey data for the study area will be used to determine if Environmental Justice communities are present in the study corridor. Additional information on race and income will be obtained from local agencies/organizations and neighborhood groups. The study's public involvement process is designed to disseminate information on the project and to obtain public input. The process will include outreach to Environmental Justice Communities to ensure their participation in the decision-making process. An environmental justice plan and planning analysis document, the *I-94 East-West Corridor Study Environmental Justice Analysis and Plan* identified a set of goals, recommended target audiences, and proposed deliverables. The plan also defined criteria to identify and communicate with minority and/or low-income persons located within the study area, as well as strategies to assess and mitigate potential impacts to those populations. The original EIS provides detail of the engagement opportunities for minority and/or low-income populations early and often in the planning and development process. During the Supplemental EIS process, WisDOT will continue their extensive outreach to the environmental justice communities and will update the EIS accordingly.

## 5.3 Public Involvement in Purpose and Need Development

The public will have an opportunity to participate in purpose and need development through input from the Community Advisory Committee; public involvement meetings; and meetings with neighborhoods, businesses and other interest groups and on the project website.

During the original EIS process, the public was afforded the opportunity to provide input on the draft purpose and need statement at two sets of public involvement meetings (PIM) (August and December 2012). In addition, the purpose and need statement was made available on the project website for a 30-day review period in November 2012.

As part of the Supplemental EIS process, the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on the revised purpose and need at a PIM in November - December 2021 as well as through local neighborhood meetings, and via their elected representatives.

## 5.4 Public Involvement in Alternatives Identification and Analysis

The public will have opportunities to participate in identifying the initial range of alternatives, the extent of alternatives analysis, the reasonable alternatives identified for detailed study and identification of a preferred alternative. Forums for participation include input from the Community Advisory Committee; public involvement meetings; and meetings with neighborhoods, businesses and other interest groups. The public will also have an opportunity to comment on alternatives at the public hearing, during the public review periods for the Draft SEIS, and on the project website throughout the study.

During the original EIS process, the public was afforded the opportunity to provide input on alternatives at five different public involvement meetings (PIM) (August and December 2012, May and July 2013, and June 2014). Public hearings for the project were conducted on December 3 and 4, 2014. During the availability period, WisDOT received numerous comments from Cooperating and Participating government agencies, local officials,



interest groups, and the public regarding the alternatives. Comments varied, and there was support for all alternatives.

As part of the Supplemental EIS process, the public will once again be provided the opportunity to comment on alternatives at PIMs, the public hearing, through local neighborhood meetings, and via their elected representatives.

## **5.5 Public Involvement in Document Reviews**

The Draft and Final EIS were made available for public review. The Coordination Plan and Impact Analysis Methodology were also made available at public involvement meetings and on the project website.

Similarly, the Supplemental Draft will be made available for public review. The revised Agency Coordination Plan and Impact Analysis Methodology will also be made available at public involvement meetings and on the project website.

## **5.6 Additional Public Involvement Strategies**

The study team will prepare a Public Involvement Plan that will be a comprehensive “blueprint” of public involvement activities carried out during the course of the project. The plan will be updated as needed if changes to the proposed process are made. Additionally, a project mailing list will be developed that includes local government officials, elected officials, key stakeholders, agency representatives, property owners in and adjacent to the study corridor, meeting attendees, those who request information, and other study team contacts.

Project newsletters will be distributed to provide project information/updates and to announce public involvement meetings and other study milestones. News releases will be provided to local media outlets to announce the public involvement meetings and availability of the EIS for public review.

Five public involvement meetings and a public hearing have been conducted. At least one additional public meeting and a public hearing will be held as part of the supplemental EIS process. Study team members will also meet with interest groups, neighborhood organizations, or individual property owners upon request to resolve as many concerns as possible. The project website will contain information such as contacts, newsletters, reports, study schedule, upcoming meeting information, exhibits from public involvement meetings and other information.

A Community Advisory Committee with representatives from community-based organizations, economic development groups, and small business groups within the study area will be established to assist the study team in identifying project issues, understanding project alternatives and impacts, and in developing plans for communicating project information to other community interests.

A Transit Technical Advisory Committee has been formed as part of the supplemental EIS process to gain input on aspects of the corridor design, implementation and impacts as it relates to mobility, accessibility and access to transit.

A Business Advisory Committee has been formed as part of the supplemental EIS process to gain private sector input on aspects of the corridor design, impacts, and project implementation.

## **5.7 Coordination with Local Officials**

A Technical Advisory Committee with representatives from local governments, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and other interests will be established to assist the study team in identifying project issues and alternatives. The study team will also meet individually with local officials as needed during the course of the study.

## **5.8 Availability of Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement**

This Coordination Plan along with the Impact Analysis Methodology was sent to Cooperating and Participating Agencies. These documents will be reviewed at the agency scoping meeting and made available to the public at the public involvement meetings and public hearings. These documents will also be posted on the project website.

# **Native American Tribe Involvement and Consultation**

## **6.1 Native American Tribe Notifications of Proposed Project**

As part of the EIS activities, Native American Tribes will be notified about the project purpose and need, alternatives being considered, planned cultural resource investigations, and will be asked to provide input on cultural resource (historic properties) aspects to aid in determining the initial Area of Potential Effect (APE). The Tribes will also be provided an opportunity to become Participating Agencies in the study and will be notified about public involvement meetings and the public hearing.

## **6.2 Native American Tribe Consultation on Project Area of Potential Effect (APE)**

Tribal consultation regarding the project APE will be done as part of item 6.1.

## **6.3 Native American Tribe Consultation on Cultural Resources Identified**

Interested Tribes will be notified of the results regarding cultural resources investigations.

## **6.4 Native American Tribe Consultation on Effects**

Tribal consultation regarding effects to historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will depend on whether any significant cultural resources (historic properties) identified in the APE are being adversely impacted by proposed project actions.

# Summary of all Project Meetings to Date

## 7.1 Project Meetings with Agencies or the Public

### 7.1.1 Meetings held through January 2016 Final EIS

Since the I-94 East-West project kicked off in 2012, WisDOT met with a broad range of stakeholders. These meetings helped to make certain that the January 2016 Final EIS preferred alternative reflected, to the extent practicable, the views of those who use I-94 and its interchanges, adjacent neighborhoods and businesses, local officials, and other interest groups.

- 7 meetings each with the Technical Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee
- Nearly 120 meetings with local community groups and businesses
- Over 70 meetings with local governments and elected officials
- Nearly 50 meetings with state and Federal agencies

### 7.1.2 Meetings since the January 2016 Final EIS

Since the January 2016 Final EIS, WisDOT continued to meet with a broad range of stakeholders as the project transitioned to and included preparation of the Supplemental EIS. Two new advisory committees, the Transit Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and Business Advisory Committee, were developed during development of the Supplemental EIS. WisDOT continues to meet with these advisory committees.

As of July 2023, WisDOT has conducted nearly 300 in-person or virtual meetings with local governments, elected officials, local community groups, local businesses, state and federal agencies, and advisory committees since June of 2020.