

# APPENDICES

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**Appendix 1:  
Public Involvement Meeting Handouts**

## Project Termini:

Black Road to south of I-90/94 & I-39/WIS 78

**County:** Columbia

**Towns:** Dekorra and Caledonia



## Purpose

The purpose of the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project is to **address the needs of the aging I-39/90/94 structures and maintain vehicular traffic across the Wisconsin River** in the towns of Dekorra and Caledonia located in Columbia County.

## Primary Need



### Secondary Steel Members

**Poor condition:**

- Heavy rust
- Warping at the connections
- Deterioration of the steel
- Loss of protective coating over the steel



### Steel Girders

**Poor condition:**

- Rust
- Thinning of the girders as the steel rusts and flakes off

**Severe condition:**

- Heavy rust
- Loss of the protective coating over the steel



### Concrete Deck

**Poor condition:**

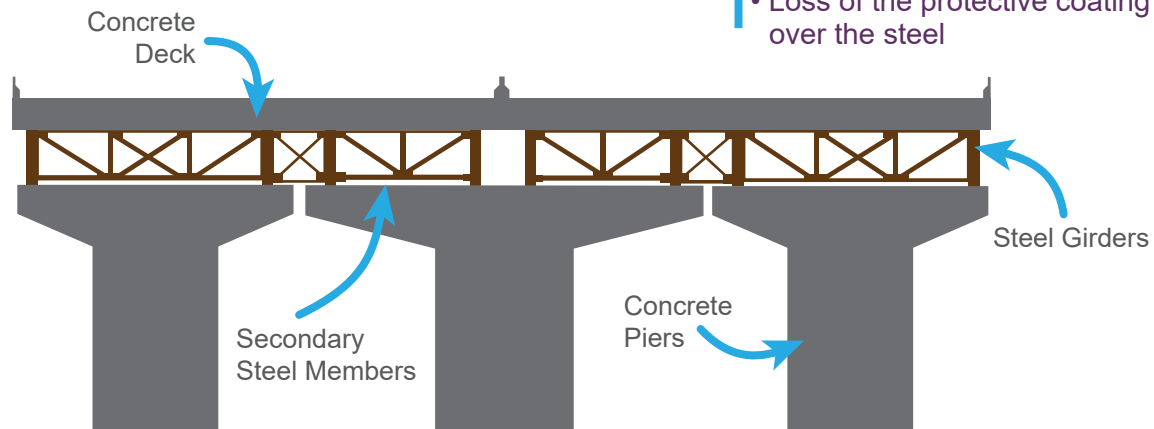
- Cracks in the concrete
- Pieces of concrete chipping off
- Rusting of the reinforcing steel



### Concrete Piers

**Poor condition:**

- Cracks in the concrete
- Pieces of concrete chipping off
- Exposed reinforcing steel



<b>Good</b> No or minimal deterioration	<b>Fair</b> Minor deterioration	<b>Poor</b> Advanced deterioration	<b>Severe</b> Major deterioration
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## Preliminary Alternatives

### Rehabilitation Alternative

- Repair the bridge in its current location
- Replace the concrete deck and repair steel supports

### East Alternative

- Construct a new bridge just east of the existing bridge
- Evaluate County U and V bridges for possible replacement

### West Alternative

- Construct a new bridge just west of the existing bridge
- Evaluate County U and V bridges for possible replacement

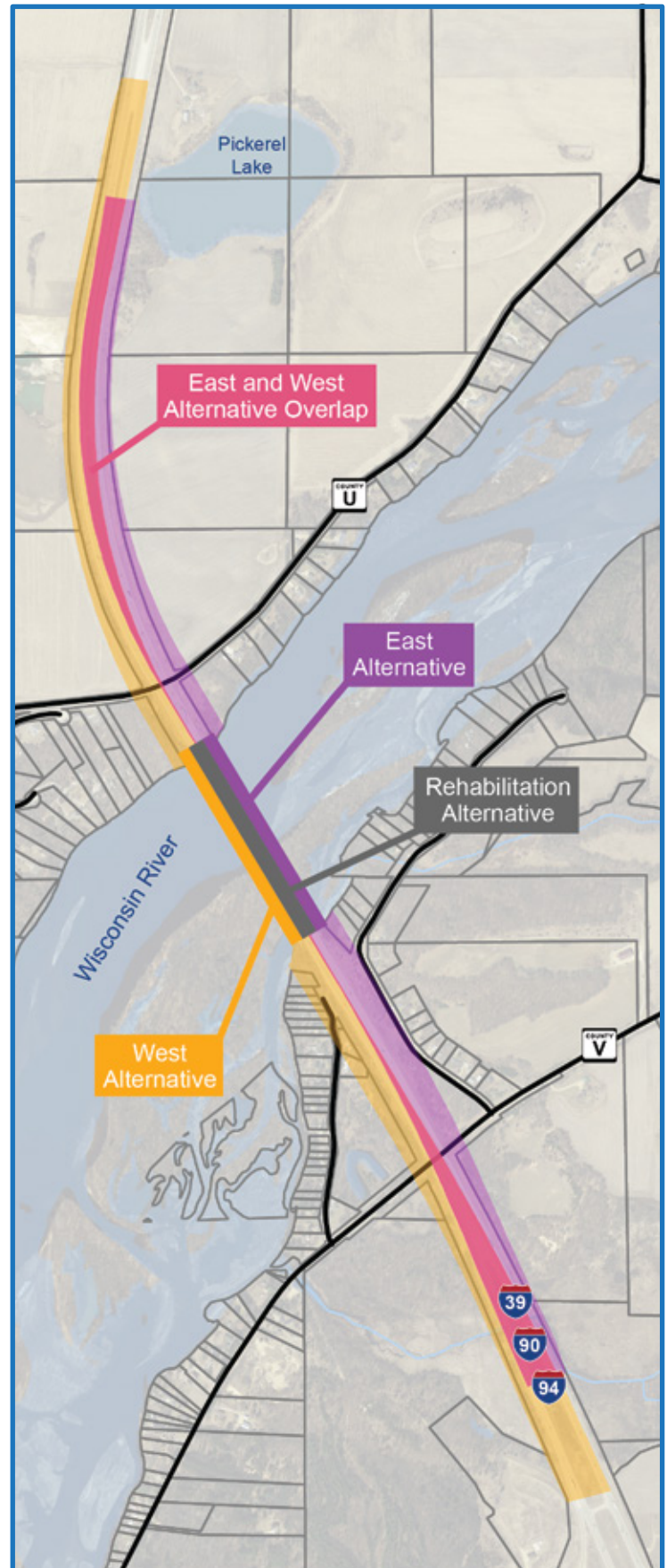
## Project Schedule

<b>Development of Purpose and Need</b>	Spring 2019
<b>Preliminary Alternatives</b>	Spring 2019
<b>Detailed Study Alternatives</b>	Summer 2019
<b>Preferred Alternative</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Environmental Document Complete</b>	Fall 2020
<b>Final Design / Real Estate Acquisition</b>	2021 - 2023
<b>Construction</b>	2024 at the earliest

## Contact Information

**Rob Knorr, PE**  
 Project Manager  
 robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov  
 (608) 246-5444

Southwest Region Office  
 2101 Wright Street  
 Madison, WI 53704



## Project Termini:

Black Road to south of I-90/94 & I-39/WIS 78

**County:** Columbia

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## Project Purpose

The purpose of the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project is to address the needs of the aging I-39/90/94 structures and maintain vehicular traffic across the Wisconsin River in the towns of Dekorra and Caledonia located in Columbia County.

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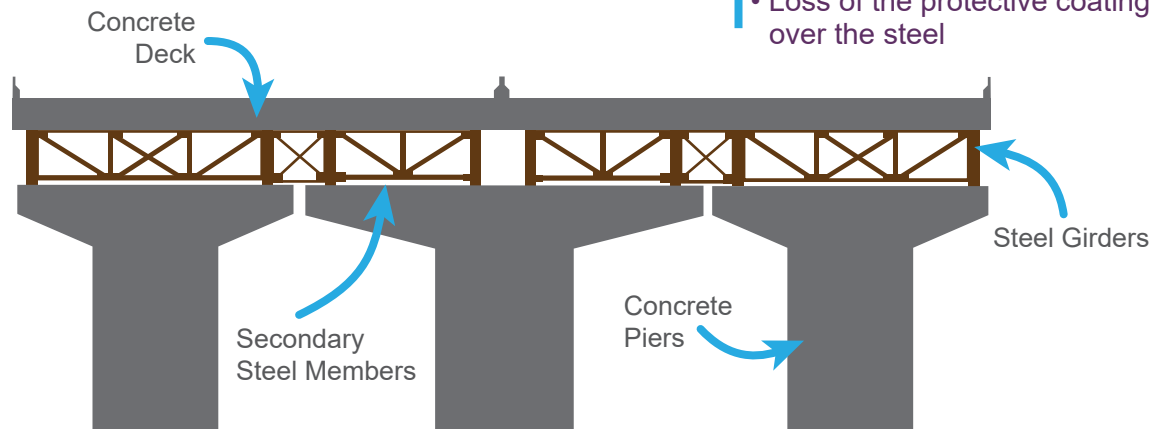
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## WisDOT Recommended Alternative

### East Alternative

- ✓ No relocations
- ✓ Avoids ATC pole impacts
- ✓ Allows for future fourth lane of traffic

### Project Schedule

<b>Preferred Alternative</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Environmental Document Complete</b>	Fall 2020
<b>Final Design / Real Estate Acquisition</b>	2021 - 2023
<b>Construction</b>	mid-2020's

For more information, contact:

**Rob Knorr, PE**

Project Manager  
 robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov  
 (608) 246-5444

Southwest Region  
 2101 Wright Street  
 Madison, WI 53704

**East Alternative**

- East Alternative
- Anticipated Right-of-Way
- Existing Right-of-Way
- Proposed Retaining Wall
- Remove Existing Road

**Resources**

- Protected Public Land
- Wetland
- Historic Property
- ATC Structure
- Existing Building

Note: Existing buildings were digitized using 2015 aerial imagery.

Dekorra  
 Public  
 Hunting  
 Grounds



**Appendix 2:**  
**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Coordination**  
**Updated: 2-35 thru 2-38**



12-10-2018

Rob Knorr  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Division of Transportation Systems Development  
Southwest Region  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison WI 53704

**Subject: DNR Initial Project Review**

Project I.D. 1010-10-01  
Wisconsin River Bridges: B-11-22/23 & Approaches  
Madison - Portage  
Columbia County  
Section 12, T11N, R8E

Dear Mr. Knorr:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has received the information you provided for the above-referenced project. According to your proposal, this project will explore replacement alternatives, associated impacts, and help identify the preferred location for replacing these bridges. Columbia County V and County U bridges over I-39/90/94, and box culverts C-11-10/11 at I-39/90/94 over Unnamed Tributary (south of County V) will also be evaluated for potential replacement. Roadway approach work will be necessary for the bridge replacements along I-39/90/94, County U, and County V. A tentative date of 2025 has been set for construction. The area to be studied extends approximately 1.8 miles north and 2.1 miles south of the Wisconsin River along I-39/90/94. Right of way acquisition is anticipated.

Preliminary information has been reviewed by DNR staff for the project under the DNR/DOT (Wisconsin Department of Transportation) Cooperative Agreement. Initial comments on the project as proposed are included below, and we assume that additional information will be provided that addresses all resource concerns identified. To ensure compliance with resource protections, we are recommending that Special Provisions be developed for specific resource protections described below. DNR expects that the full range of DOT roadway standards will be applied throughout the design and construction process.

**A. Project-Specific Resource Concerns**

**Section 4(f) Requirement:**

Public lands are present in the vicinity of this project. If there is potential for impacts to these lands, please begin coordination with us as soon as possible. First and foremost, every effort should be taken to avoid impacts to these lands.



There is a U.S. Dept. of Transportation "Section 4(f)" process for federally funded transportation projects that impact various types of public parks, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas. This requirement is coordinated by state and federal transportation departments. Please ensure the 4f process is followed according to the DOT facilities development manual.

This requirement applies to the Scattered Wildlife Lands located South and West of the CTH V overpass. No LAWCON, Stewardship, USFWS, PR-DJ Sportfish Restoration, or NAWCA funds were used to purchase these properties

**Wetlands:**

There is potential for wetland impacts to occur as a result of this project. Wetland impacts must be avoided and/or minimized to the greatest extent practicable. Unavoidable wetland losses must be compensated for in accordance with the DNR/DOT Cooperative Agreement and the DOT Wetland Mitigation Banking Technical Guideline. DNR requests information regarding the amount and type of unavoidable wetland impacts.

**Fisheries/Stream Work:**

The Wisconsin River is a warm water sport fishery. There shall be no in-stream disturbance between March 1<sup>st</sup>- June 30<sup>th</sup>, with both dates inclusive of the timeout period. This construction BMP minimizes impacts to fish and other aquatic organisms during sensitive time periods such as spawning, and migration.

This stretch of the Wisconsin River is a Priority Navigable Waterway Sturgeon Area.

- ❖ *Disclaimer: Requests to modify the in-stream timeout dates may be made, if seasonal conditions and/or extra best management practices (BMPs) would allow it. These requests must be submitted to the DNR for review and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.*

If erosion control matting is to be used along stream banks, DNR recommends biodegradable non-netted matting (e.g. Class I Type A Urban, Class I Type B Urban, or Class II Type C). Long-term netted mats may cause animal entrapment. Avoid the use of fine mesh matting that is tied or bonded at the mesh intersection such that the openings in the mesh are fixed in size.

**Aquatic Connectivity and Culvert Work:**

Box culverts C-11-10/11 approximately ¼ mile south of the CTH V overpass should be set and sized in such a manner to avoid or minimize impacts to stream morphology, aquatic organism passage, and water quality. The invert elevation of the new culvert(s) should be set an adequate distance below the natural streambed elevation, to allow for a natural and continuous streambed condition to occur. The invert elevations of the existing and proposed structure(s), the water surface elevations, and the natural streambed elevations upstream and downstream should be specified in the plans.

**Habitat Connectivity:**

The DNR has identified valuable wildlife habitat along the proposed project limits, and if not properly designed, this project will likely result in a disruption to wildlife passage. DNR requests that wildlife passage accommodations be incorporated at the Wisconsin River bridge, in order to maintain or improve habitat connectivity.

The Wisconsin River provides an important corridor for animal movement and migration. Given the size and nature of the river and this bridge crossing, most bridge designs will likely provide for adequate wildlife passage without specific accommodations being provided.

Additionally, there is a large wetland complex with an unnamed waterway crossing under the interstate approximately 0.24 miles southeast of the CTH V overpass at box culverts C-11-10/11. Wetland complexes and waterways often create natural corridors for wildlife movement and migration. When combined with the direct connection to the Wisconsin River corridor, this wetland complex has the potential to provide a migration corridor for many small mammals and several herpatile species. We ask that DOT consider incorporating 'dry land' passage to this crossing, especially if this structure is replaced during this project. One possibility is to include a raised ledge above the normal waterline running the length of the culvert, preferably with some type of connection to the stream bank, but other alternatives may be just as effective.

Please continue to work with your Transportation Liaison throughout the design process to evaluate and consider suitable solutions.

**Endangered Resources:**

Based upon a review of the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) and other DNR records dated 9-18-2018, the following Endangered Resources are known to occur in the project area or its vicinity and could be impacted by this project.

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The Transportation Liaison has initiated coordination with DNR Conservation Biologist, Stacy Rowe and will continue consultation through the design process.

- ❖ *NHI Disclaimer: This review letter may contain NHI data, including specific locations of endangered resources, which are considered sensitive and are not subject to Wisconsin's Open Records Law (s. 23.27 3(b), Wis. Stats.). As a result, endangered resources-related information contained in this review letter may be shared only with individuals or agencies that require this information in order to carry out specific roles in the permitting, planning and implementation of the proposed project. Endangered resources information must be redacted from this letter prior to inclusion in any publicly disseminated document*

**Migratory Birds:**

Based on the information provided/based on site review, there is evidence of past migratory bird nesting on the existing structure. Under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act, destruction of swallows and other migratory birds or their nests is unlawful unless a permit has been obtained from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Therefore, the project should either occur only between August 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1st (non-nesting season) or utilize measures to prevent nesting (e.g., *remove unoccupied nests during the non-nesting season and install barrier netting prior to May 1*). If netting is used, ensure it is properly maintained, then removed as soon as the nesting period is over. If neither of these options is practicable then the USFWS must be contacted to apply for a depredation permit.

To avoid impacts to nesting birds, removal of trees and shrubs which are likely to support active nests, or ground disturbance and vehicle traffic in grasslands with potential ground-nesting migratory birds should be completed between August 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Invasive Species and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS):**

All project equipment shall be decontaminated for removal of invasive species prior to and after each use on the project site by utilizing other best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. For more information, refer to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/bmp.html>.

- **Emerald Ash Borer:** This project has the potential for spreading the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle. It is illegal to move or transport ash material, the emerald ash borer, and hardwood debris (i.e. firewood) from EAB quarantined areas to a non-quarantined area without a compliance agreement issued by WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Regulated items include cut hardwood (non-coniferous) firewood, ash logs, ash mulch or bark fragments larger than one inch in diameter, or ash nursery stock (DATCP statute 21).
  - For more information regarding the EAB and quarantine areas please click on the following link: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=20>
  - Recommendations to reduce the spread of EAB in potentially infested Ash wood: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Recommendations%20to%20reduce%20the%20spread%20of%20EAB.pdf>
- **Oak Wilt:** This project involves work that may involve cutting or wounding of oak trees. To prevent the spread of oak wilt disease, please avoid cutting or pruning of oaks from April 1 through September 30. For more information and guidance see the DNR webpage at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/oakwilt.html>.
- **Pampas Grass:** There are established areas of what we believe to be Pampas Grass within the median and right of way near the CTH V overpass and south of the bridge. If work is to occur in these areas, we would like to work with DOT to remove this invasive grass. We will work with DOT environmental staff to properly identify if this species is present and develop an action plan to address its removal.

### **Floodplains:**

Floodplain impacts should be assessed, and/or quantified, and appropriate coordination must be carried out in accordance with the DOT/DNR Cooperative Agreement. Coordination must also occur with the appropriate Zoning authority.

- A preliminary review of the Surface Water Data Viewer (SWDV) indicates that floodplain conditions exist within the project limits.

### **FERC Coordination:**

This bridge project falls within the FERC project boundary for the dam at Prairie Du Sac owned by Alliant Energy. We strongly recommend WisDOT begin early coordination with Alliant to ensure construction activities do not conflict with the FERC license for the hydropower dam downstream.

Issues to be mindful of include pool elevations, flow regimes, and the bald eagle conservation plan. The most recent revision of the FERC Operating License has been provided to WisDOT environmental staff.

### **Storm Water Management & Erosion Control:**

- For projects disturbing an acre or more of land, erosion control and storm water measures must adhere to the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Transportation Construction General Permit (TCGP) for Storm Water Discharges. Coverage under TCGP is required prior to construction. DOT should apply for permit coverage just before the project goes to final PS&E. Permit coverage will be issued by the DNR after design is complete and documentation shows that the project will meet construction and post-construction performance standards. For more information regarding the TCGP you can go to the following link, and click on the “Transportation” tab: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Sectors/Transportation.html>.
- All projects require an Erosion Control Plan (ECP) that describes best management practices that will be implemented before, during and after construction to minimize pollution from storm water discharges. Additionally, the plan should address how post-construction storm water performance standards will be met for the specific site. The project design and Erosion Control Implementation Plan (ECIP) must comply with the TCGP in order to receive “permit-coverage” from the DNR.
- Once the project contract has been awarded, the contractor will be required to outline their construction methods in the ECIP. An adequate ECIP for the project must be developed by the contractor and submitted to this office for review at least 14 days prior to the preconstruction conference. For projects regulated under the TCGP, submit the ECIP as an amendment to the ECP.

### **Selected Site & Commercial Non-Metallic Mines:**

- The DOT Select Site process must be adhered to for clean fill or any other material that leaves the work site. The DNR liaison will review all proposed select sites and a site visit may be required. Filling of wetlands, waterways or floodplain is not allowed under the select site process, unless the site owner obtains required permits. No new impermeable surfaces can be left at a select site (including gravel roads or pads), unless the site owner obtains required permits. Contaminated materials leaving the site need to adhere to the Hazardous Material Management Plan.
- Use of Commercial Non-Metallic Mines must accompany documentation that such mines have received all applicable local, state and federal permits before being used on the project, including local non-metallic mining reclamation permits and applicable WPDES permits as issued by the DNR.

### **Structure Removal/Bridge Demolition:**

Due to the characteristics of this section of the Wisconsin River, **STSP 203-020**, *Removing Old Structure Over Waterway With Minimal Debris*, will be adequate for this project. Please coordinate with DNR early in the design phase of the project if the bridge must be dropped into the waterway before removal.

**Temporary Structure:**

It appears a causeway or temporary bridge may be desired to [build, construct or reconstruct] this bridge. If usage of a causeway or temporary bridge is being considered for this project, please coordinate specific needs with DNR as soon as possible. The causeway should be clearly marked and lit for the navigational safety of any recreationist who may use the river at night, and a waterway marker permit maybe required.

**Temporary Stream Channel or Culvert:**

If a temporary channel is needed for culvert construction, the channel should be lined with plastic or other non-erodible material and weighted down with clean stone. A temporary channel or culvert should carry as much stream flow as possible and should must maintain a suitable depth and velocity to allow the passage of migrating fish and aquatic species. Fish that become stranded in dewatered areas or temporary channels should be captured and returned to the active channel immediately.

These requirements should be addressed in the special provisions and require the contractor to outline these construction methods in the ECIP.

**Asbestos:**

A Notification of Demolition and/or Renovation and Application for Permit Exemption, DNR form 4500-113 (chapters NR 406, 410, and 447 Wis. Adm. Code) may be required. Please refer to DOT FDM 21-35-45 and the DNR's notification requirements web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Demo/Asbestos.html> for further guidance on asbestos inspections and notifications. Contact Mark Davis, Air Management Specialist 262-574-2118, with questions on the form. The notification must be submitted 10 working days in advance of demolition projects.

**Public Waterway Navigation Issues:**

This reach of the Wisconsin River is regularly used by recreational watercraft. It will be necessary to place navigational aids around the construction area during construction. A Waterway Marker Application and Permit is required for both types of navigational markers (informational vs. control/restrictive) prior to construction. A local ordinance will also be required for buoys that control or restrict navigation. Adequate time should be allowed for the passage of an ordinance with the local municipality. A local ordinance is not required for informational navigational aids (a waterway marker permit is required). DNR will determine which type of navigational aids are needed in accordance with the project design and methods used during construction. The general steps for submission of a Waterway Marker Application and Permit are as follows:

1. Please fill out the Waterway Marker Application and Permit form: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/8700/8700-058.pdf>
2. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation should be listed as the applicant.
3. Be sure to include an aerial map-diagram or engineered-diagram of the work location and the placement of the waterway markers (buoys). If proposed GPS coordinates for each buoy are not provided, then markers placed on the diagram must show distance (in feet) from each marker location and from one permanent fixture as a benchmark.

4. Provide the completed application/permit to the local municipality having jurisdictional authority over the area in which the waterway markers will be placed. If an ordinance is required, consult with the local municipality regarding their ordinance process.
5. Forward the signed application/permit to myself as well as the Boating Program Specialist:

**Penny Kanable**  
**Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources**  
**101 S Webster Street - LE/8**  
**Madison WI 53703**

6. The Boating Program Specialist will communicate with the local Warden and Recreational Safety Warden in processing and finalizing the permit. If the permit application is incomplete or additional information is needed the Boating Program Specialist will work with DNR's Regional DOT Liaison to resolve.
7. Permanent Navigation Aids: The process outlined above will also apply to the placement of permanent navigational aids. This includes modifications, additions or temporary relocations of existing navigational aids. The locations of existing buoys (or other navigational aids) must be included in the permit application.

#### **Special Features:**

- **Seeding and Mulching Recommendation:**

- DNR is recommending that seed mix #80 (or other native mix deemed suitable for these sites) be used on this project in areas adjacent to DNR wildlife areas in order to help promote native vegetation on those properties.
- DNR is requesting that weed-free mulch be used for restoration of this project site in areas with native seeding. Some weed-free mulch suppliers can be found at:  
<http://wcia.wisc.edu/mulch.pdf>.

#### **Other Issues:**

This project may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For further permit details, you may contact Kyle Zibung of the USACE located in the Stevens Point office, at 651-290-5877. All local, state, and federal permits and/or approvals must be obtained prior to commencing construction activities.

The above comments represent the DNR's initial concerns for the proposed project and do not constitute final concurrence. Final concurrence will be granted after further review of refined project plans, and additional consultation if necessary. If any of the concerns or information provided in this letter requires further clarification, please contact this office at 608-275-3308, or email at [andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov).



Sincerely,

*Andy Barta*

Andy Barta  
Environmental Analysis & Review Specialist

cc: Jennifer Grimes – WisDOT REC  
Joel Brown- WisDOT BTS  
Kyle Zibung – ACOE  
Stacy Rowe – DNR  
Eric Heggelund- DNR  
Sara Kehrli- DNR



12-10-2018

WisDOT Annotated Verison

Rob Knorr  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Division of Transportation Systems Development  
Southwest Region  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison WI 53704

**Subject: DNR Initial Project Review**

Project I.D. 1010-10-01  
Wisconsin River Bridges: B-11-22/23 & Approaches  
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This requirement applies to the Scattered Wildlife Lands located South and West of the CTH V overpass. No LAWCON, Stewardship, USFWS, PR-DJ Sportfish Restoration, or NAWCA funds were used to purchase these properties

**Wetlands:**

There is potential for wetland impacts to occur as a result of this project. Wetland impacts must be avoided and/or minimized to the greatest extent practicable. Unavoidable wetland losses must be compensated for in accordance with the DNR/DOT Cooperative Agreement and the DOT Wetland Mitigation Banking Technical Guideline. DNR requests information regarding the amount and type of unavoidable wetland impacts.

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**Aquatic Connectivity and Culvert Work:**

Invert elevations will be set during final design. The normal WisDOT process for culvert design will achieve this request.

Box culverts C-11-10/11 approximately ¼ mile south of the CTH V overpass should be set and sized in such a manner to avoid or minimize impacts to stream morphology, aquatic organism passage, and water quality. The invert elevation of the new culvert(s) should be set an adequate distance below the natural streambed elevation, to allow for a natural and continuous streambed condition to occur. The invert elevations of the existing and proposed structure(s), the water surface elevations, and the natural streambed elevations upstream and downstream should be specified in the plans.

**Habitat Connectivity:**

The Preferred Alternative will allow wildlife passage.

The DNR has identified valuable wildlife habitat along the proposed project limits, and if not properly designed, this project will likely result in a disruption to wildlife passage. DNR requests that wildlife passage accommodations be incorporated at the Wisconsin River bridge, in order to maintain or improve habitat connectivity.

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The Transportation Liaison has initiated coordination with DNR Conservation Biologist, Stacy Rowe and will continue consultation through the design process.

- ❖ *NHI Disclaimer: This review letter may contain NHI data, including specific locations of endangered resources, which are considered sensitive and are not subject to Wisconsin's Open Records Law (s. 23.27 3(b), Wis. Stats.). As a result, endangered resources-related information contained in this review letter may be shared only with individuals or agencies that require this information in order to carry out specific roles in the permitting, planning and implementation of the proposed project. Endangered resources information must be redacted from this letter prior to inclusion in any publicly disseminated document*

**Migratory Birds:**

Based on the information provided/based on site review, there is evidence of past migratory bird nesting on the existing structure. Under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act, destruction of swallows and other migratory birds or their nests is unlawful unless a permit has been obtained from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Therefore, the project should either occur only between August 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1st (non-nesting season) or utilize measures to prevent nesting (e.g., *remove unoccupied nests during the non-nesting season and install barrier netting prior to May 1*). If netting is used, ensure it is properly maintained, then removed as soon as the nesting period is over. If neither of these options is practicable then the USFWS must be contacted to apply for a depredation permit.

To avoid impacts to nesting birds, removal of trees and shrubs which are likely to support active nests, or ground disturbance and vehicle traffic in grasslands with potential ground-nesting migratory birds should be completed between August 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Invasive Species and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS):**

All project equipment shall be decontaminated for removal of invasive species prior to and after each use on the project site by utilizing other best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. For more information, refer to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/bmp.html>.

Invasive species and VHS are addressed via WisDOT Standard Specifications.

- **Emerald Ash Borer:** This project has the potential for spreading the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle. It is illegal to move or transport ash material, the emerald ash borer, and hardwood debris (i.e. firewood) from EAB quarantined areas to a non-quarantined area without a compliance agreement issued by WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Regulated items include cut hardwood (non-coniferous) firewood, ash logs, ash mulch or bark fragments larger than one inch in diameter, or ash nursery stock (DATCP statute 21).
  - For more information regarding the EAB and quarantine areas please click on the following link: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=20>
  - Recommendations to reduce the spread of EAB in potentially infested Ash wood: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Recommendations%20to%20reduce%20the%20spread%20of%20EAB.pdf>
- **Oak Wilt:** This project involves work that may involve cutting or wounding of oak trees. To prevent the spread of oak wilt disease, please avoid cutting or pruning of oaks from April 1 through September 30. For more information and guidance see the DNR webpage at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/oakwilt.html>.
- **Pampas Grass:** There are established areas of what we believe to be Pampas Grass within the median and right of way near the CTH V overpass and south of the bridge. If work is to occur in these areas, we would like to work with DOT to remove this invasive grass. We will work with DOT environmental staff to properly identify if this species is present and develop an action plan to address its removal.

### **Floodplains:**

Floodplain impacts should be assessed, and/or quantified, and appropriate coordination must be carried out in accordance with the DOT/DNR Cooperative Agreement. Coordination must also occur with the appropriate Zoning authority.

- A preliminary review of the Surface Water Data Viewer (SWDV) indicates that floodplain conditions exist within the project limits.

### **FERC Coordination:**

This bridge project falls within the FERC project boundary for the dam at Prairie Du Sac owned by Alliant Energy. We strongly recommend WisDOT begin early coordination with Alliant to ensure construction activities do not conflict with the FERC license for the hydropower dam downstream.

Issues to be mindful of include pool elevations, flow regimes, and the bald eagle conservation plan. The most recent revision of the FERC Operating License has been provided to WisDOT environmental staff.

### **Storm Water Management & Erosion Control:**

- For projects disturbing an acre or more of land, erosion control and storm water measures must adhere to the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Transportation Construction General Permit (TCGP) for Storm Water Discharges. Coverage under TCGP is required prior to construction. DOT should apply for permit coverage just before the project goes to final PS&E. Permit coverage will be issued by the DNR after design is complete and documentation shows that the project will meet construction and post-construction performance standards. For more information regarding the TCGP you can go to the following link, and click on the “Transportation” tab: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Sectors/Transportation.html>.
- All projects require an Erosion Control Plan (ECP) that describes best management practices that will be implemented before, during and after construction to minimize pollution from storm water discharges. Additionally, the plan should address how post-construction storm water performance standards will be met for the specific site. The project design and Erosion Control Implementation Plan (ECIP) must comply with the TCGP in order to receive “permit-coverage” from the DNR.
- Once the project contract has been awarded, the contractor will be required to outline their construction methods in the ECIP. An adequate ECIP for the project must be developed by the contractor and submitted to this office for review at least 14 days prior to the preconstruction conference. For projects regulated under the TCGP, submit the ECIP as an amendment to the ECP.

### **Selected Site & Commercial Non-Metallic Mines:**

- The DOT Select Site process must be adhered to for clean fill or any other material that leaves the work site. The DNR liaison will review all proposed select sites and a site visit may be required. Filling of wetlands, waterways or floodplain is not allowed under the select site process, unless the site owner obtains required permits. No new impermeable surfaces can be left at a select site (including gravel roads or pads), unless the site owner obtains required permits. Contaminated materials leaving the site need to adhere to the Hazardous Material Management Plan.
- Use of Commercial Non-Metallic Mines must accompany documentation that such mines have received all applicable local, state and federal permits before being used on the project, including local non-metallic mining reclamation permits and applicable WPDES permits as issued by the DNR.

### **Structure Removal/Bridge Demolition:**

Due to the characteristics of this section of the Wisconsin River, **STSP 203-020**, *Removing Old Structure Over Waterway With Minimal Debris*, will be adequate for this project. Please coordinate with DNR early in the design phase of the project if the bridge must be dropped into the waterway before removal.



**Temporary Structure:**

It appears a causeway or temporary bridge may be desired to [build, construct or reconstruct] this bridge. If usage of a causeway or temporary bridge is being considered for this project, please coordinate specific needs with DNR as soon as possible. The causeway should be clearly marked and lit for the navigational safety of any recreationist who may use the river at night, and a waterway marker permit maybe required.

**Temporary Stream Channel or Culvert:**

If a temporary channel is needed for culvert construction, the channel should be lined with plastic or other non-erodible material and weighted down with clean stone. A temporary channel or culvert should carry as much stream flow as possible and should must maintain a suitable depth and velocity to allow the passage of migrating fish and aquatic species. Fish that become stranded in dewatered areas or temporary channels should be captured and returned to the active channel immediately.

These requirements should be addressed in the special provisions and require the contractor to outline these construction methods in the ECIP.

**Asbestos:**

A Notification of Demolition and/or Renovation and Application for Permit Exemption, DNR form 4500-113 (chapters NR 406, 410, and 447 Wis. Adm. Code) may be required. Please refer to DOT FDM 21-35-45 and the DNR's notification requirements web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Demo/Asbestos.html> for further guidance on asbestos inspections and notifications. Contact Mark Davis, Air Management Specialist 262-574-2118, with questions on the form. The notification must be submitted 10 working days in advance of demolition projects.

**Public Waterway Navigation Issues:**

This reach of the Wisconsin River is regularly used by recreational watercraft. It will be necessary to place navigational aids around the construction area during construction. A Waterway Marker Application and Permit is required for both types of navigational markers (informational vs. control/restrictive) prior to construction. A local ordinance will also be required for buoys that control or restrict navigation. Adequate time should be allowed for the passage of an ordinance with the local municipality. A local ordinance is not required for informational navigational aids (a waterway marker permit is required). DNR will determine which type of navigational aids are needed in accordance with the project design and methods used during construction. The general steps for submission of a Waterway Marker Application and Permit are as follows:

1. Please fill out the Waterway Marker Application and Permit form: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/8700/8700-058.pdf>
2. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation should be listed as the applicant.
3. Be sure to include an aerial map-diagram or engineered-diagram of the work location and the placement of the waterway markers (buoys). If proposed GPS coordinates for each buoy are not provided, then markers placed on the diagram must show distance (in feet) from each marker location and from one permanent fixture as a benchmark.

4. Provide the completed application/permit to the local municipality having jurisdictional authority over the area in which the waterway markers will be placed. If an ordinance is required, consult with the local municipality regarding their ordinance process.
5. Forward the signed application/permit to myself as well as the Boating Program Specialist:

**Penny Kanable**  
**Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources**  
**101 S Webster Street - LE/8**  
**Madison WI 53703**

6. The Boating Program Specialist will communicate with the local Warden and Recreational Safety Warden in processing and finalizing the permit. If the permit application is incomplete or additional information is needed the Boating Program Specialist will work with DNR's Regional DOT Liaison to resolve.
7. Permanent Navigation Aids: The process outlined above will also apply to the placement of permanent navigational aids. This includes modifications, additions or temporary relocations of existing navigational aids. The locations of existing buoys (or other navigational aids) must be included in the permit application.

#### **Special Features:**

- **Seeding and Mulching Recommendation:**

- DNR is recommending that seed mix #80 (or other native mix deemed suitable for these sites) be used on this project in areas adjacent to DNR wildlife areas in order to help promote native vegetation on those properties.
- DNR is requesting that weed-free mulch be used for restoration of this project site in areas with native seeding. Some weed-free mulch suppliers can be found at:  
<http://wcia.wisc.edu/mulch.pdf>.

#### **Other Issues:**

This project may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For further permit details, you may contact Kyle Zibung of the USACE located in the Stevens Point office, at 651-290-5877. All local, state, and federal permits and/or approvals must be obtained prior to commencing construction activities.

The above comments represent the DNR's initial concerns for the proposed project and do not constitute final concurrence. Final concurrence will be granted after further review of refined project plans, and additional consultation if necessary. If any of the concerns or information provided in this letter requires further clarification, please contact this office at 608-275-3308, or email at [andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

*Andy Barta*

Andy Barta  
Environmental Analysis & Review Specialist

cc: Jennifer Grimes – WisDOT REC  
Joel Brown- WisDOT BTS  
Kyle Zibung – ACOE  
Stacy Rowe – DNR  
Eric Heggelund- DNR  
Sara Kehrli- DNR



4-12-19

Rob Knorr  
WisDOT Southwest Region- Madison Office  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison WI 53704-2583

**Subject: DNR Initial Project Review**

Project I.D. 1010-10-01  
I-39/90/94  
Wisconsin River Bridges B-11-22/23 & Approaches  
Columbia County

Dear Mr. Knorr:

We have received the information you provided on March 14, 2019 regarding the aging I-39/90/94 crossing of the Wisconsin River. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) is evaluating alternatives for this crossing. The project is focused on the Wisconsin River crossing and approaches with a southern terminus 1.9 miles south of the Wisconsin River at Black Road and the northern terminus 1.6 miles north at the end of southbound taper from the I-90/94 & I-39/WIS 78 Interchange.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has jurisdiction and special expertise with respect to environmental impacts involved in the proposed project and will continue to provide input throughout the environmental process. For a summary of previous coordination and comments, please see our initial comment letter dated 12-10-18.

Purpose and Need

As stated in your March 14<sup>th</sup> submittal the purpose of this project is to address the needs of the aging I-39/90/94 structures and maintain vehicular traffic across the Wisconsin River in the towns of Dekorra and Caledonia located in Columbia County. This structure has been repaired 7 times since it was constructed in 1961 and continues to deteriorate. The need to reconstruct the bridge is primarily driven by deteriorating structure members, many of which are currently rated in poor or severe conditions. Past repairs and expansion of the structures make future repairs difficult and more costly and the structure is approaching the end of its serviceable life.

Secondary needs, those that will be considered in alternative development but are not the primary focus of the project, include capacity concerns and substandard geometrics. Addressing these concerns will provide a safer crossing on a primary commercial and recreational corridor.

The Department of Natural Resources recognizes and agrees with the purpose and need as outlined above. We have no further comments or concerns regarding the purpose or need of this project.

We appreciate the ongoing coordination between WisDOT and DNR and look forward to that continued cooperation as the project progresses through design.

If you have any further questions regarding this letter, or any other aspect of the project design, please don't hesitate to contact this office at [andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov) or 608-275-3308.

Sincerely,

*Andy Barta*

Andy Barta  
Environmental Analysis & Review Specialist

cc: Ian Chidisiter, FHWA-WI  
Joe Balice, FHWA-WI  
Joel Brown, WisDOT  
Jennifer Grimes, WisDOT  
Jess Billmeyer, AECOM  
Ashley Schulze, AECOM

**From:** [Brown, Joel R - DOT](#)  
**To:** [Billmeyer, Jess](#); [Schulze, Ashley](#); [Dredske, Logan](#)  
**Cc:** [Knorr, Robert - DOT](#); [Grimes, Jennifer - DOT](#); [Brown, Joel R - DOT](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 1010-10-01 WI River Bridge, ENV, WI-River Islands  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2019 10:43:59 AM

---

Jess, Ashley and Logan,

See the e-mail response below from Andy Barta related to the islands in the Wisconsin River.

Joel Brown  
*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*  
608-630-3202

---

**From:** Barta, Andrew H - DNR  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2019 10:04 AM  
**To:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: 1010-10-01 WI River Bridge, ENV, WI-River Islands

Hi Joel,

DNR does not have any ownership stake on the islands listed below. Additionally this section of river does not have a specific management plan as it is not managed as a DNR property. This section of river still sees an abundance of use primarily from recreational fisherman, pleasure boaters, and canoe/kayak enthusiast and the Wisconsin River as whole is managed as a warm water sport fishery. I am unaware of any DNR efforts to promote recreation, specific to this stretch of river, beyond DNR's promotion of outdoor recreation activities in general.

Andy

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Andy Barta  
Phone: (608) 275-3308  
Cell: (608) 235-2955  
[Andrew.Barta@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.Barta@Wisconsin.gov)

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**From:** Brown, Joel R - DOT  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 7:48 AM  
**To:** Barta, Andrew H - DNR <[Andrew.Barta@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.Barta@wisconsin.gov)>  
**Cc:** Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>

[94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>

**Subject:** 1010-10-01 WI River Bridge, ENV, WI-River Islands

Andy,

This e-mail is a follow-up to our discussion yesterday related to the islands in the Wisconsin River. The e-mail below from BLM identifies they have interest in islands 021-013 and 021-014 and they do not have interest in islands 021-015 and 021 -016 shown on the attached map. Island 021-015 is located under the existing WI-River Bridge and may be impacted to some extent with any build alternatives considered for the WI-River Bridge project. Does DNR have interest in island 021-015 under the existing bridge? If so, does DNR manage the island or promote recreational uses in any way? I am aware of a management plan for the Lower Wisconsin River but have not seen or been able to find anything related to the stretch of the river where the I-39/90/94 WI-River Bridge.

Jenny,

Please add anything to this e-mail I may have overlooked.

Thank you for any help with this.

Joel Brown

*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*

608-630-3202

**From:** Carman, Stephanie [<mailto:scarman@blm.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 4:13 PM

**To:** Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>

**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Balice, Joe <[joe.balice@dot.gov](mailto:joe.balice@dot.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Billmeyer, Jess <[jess.billmeyer@aecom.com](mailto:jess.billmeyer@aecom.com)>; Schulze, Ashley <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Katherine (Katie) Frauen <[kfrauen@blm.gov](mailto:kfrauen@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, BLM

Hi Robert -

I wanted to provide you and your team with a quick update on our progress in determining the Federal interest in the islands near the bridge projects. As shown on the attached map, we can affirm that islands 021-013 and 021-014 are Federal and that islands 021-015 and 021 -016 are not Federal, and thus the BLM would have no interest/authority on islands 021-015 and 021-016. We are still awaiting determinations on islands 021-017 and 021 -018. Once we have a final determination for the project area, we will send you an official notification.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Stephanie

**Stephanie Carman**  
**Assistant District Manager for Resources**  
Bureau of Land Management  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Fri, Mar 15, 2019 at 10:07 AM Carman, Stephanie <[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)> wrote:

Thank you Robert. We will review the documents and get back to you.

Stephanie

**Stephanie Carman**  
**Assistant District Manager for Resources**  
Bureau of Land Management  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 5:08 PM Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)> wrote:

Stephanie,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration have prepared a summary of the Purpose and Need Statement for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Attached please find the project's purpose and need summary and a letter requesting your agency's review and comment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

**Robert Knorr, P.E.**  
*Project Manager – Major Studies Unit*  
*WisDOT Southwest Region*  
*2101 Wright St.*  
*Madison, WI 53704-2583*  
*(608) 246-5444*  
[robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov)



**From:** [Schulze, Ashley](#)  
**To:** [Dredske, Logan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 WI-River Bridge DNR Conversation  
**Date:** Thursday, December 26, 2019 2:36:14 PM

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**From:** Barta, Andrew H - DNR <Andrew.Barta@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2019 10:13 AM  
**To:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Knorr, Robert - DOT <Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov>  
**Cc:** Billmeyer, Jess <Jess.Billmeyer@aecom.com>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 WI-River Bridge DNR Conversation

Thanks Joel for bringing me up to speed and forwarding along those [REDACTED] pictures, great to see!

Everything below is accurate to me, I look forward to continued coordination on this project.

Andy

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Andy Barta

Phone: (608) 275-3308

Cell: (608) 235-2955

[Andrew.Barta@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.Barta@Wisconsin.gov)

---

**From:** Brown, Joel R - DOT  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>; Barta, Andrew H - DNR <[Andrew.Barta@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.Barta@wisconsin.gov)>  
**Cc:** Billmeyer, Jess <[jess.billmeyer@aecom.com](mailto:jess.billmeyer@aecom.com)>; Schulze, Ashley <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 WI-River Bridge DNR Conversation

Rob,

I talked with Andy Barta this morning about the three questions we had for him during our meeting yesterday, and one additional comment. The following is a list of questions and responses.

- AOP comments in the initial review letter
  - Field review is not necessary for this project, if the box culverts are replaced the comment will be addressed by installing a properly sized box culvert/s
- [REDACTED] nesting deterrents on the WI-River Bridge prior to construction

- When we talk/share the range of alternatives we should discuss [REDACTED] deterrents being installed prior to construction activities occurring. Once we have additional alternative information to share Andy will talk with Stacy Rowe at NHC about types, timing and requirements for deterrents.
- Fox-WI Heritage Parkway
  - Include Andy on coordination with the Fox-WI-Heritage Parkway organization. Brian Taylor recently coordinated with this group for a project in Portage on US 51. I will ask Brian for information on who he coordinated with.
- Mussel BA and BO with USFWS
  - Provide updates related to USFWS coordination so DNR is in the loop related to this topic.

Andy,

Please respond to this e-mail with confirmation of the contents of our discussion and/or any revisions needed.

Thank you

Joel Brown

*Bureau of Technical Services*

*Environmental Process and Document Section*

*Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation*

*608-630-3202*

State of Wisconsin  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
101 S. Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463



1-9-20

Jennifer Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator  
WisDOT Southwest Region - Edgerton  
111 Interstate Blvd  
Edgerton, WI 53534

**Subject: DNR Initial Review**  
Project I.D. 1010-10-01  
I-39/90/94 Bridges over Wisconsin River  
Columbia County

Dear Jennifer Grimes,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have provided information to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) regarding the anticipated impacts to WDNR's Dekorra Public Hunting Ground resulting from the proposed I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project. It was further explained that potential impacts were identified at a public involvement meeting for the project held September 12, 2019. No comments related to impacts were received. The purpose of this letter is to document WDNR's position on the anticipated impacts to the Dekorra Public Hunting Ground.

It has been explained that as part of the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project, the County V bridge over I-39/90/94 will be replaced just south of its existing location. This will result in the realignment of County V to connect to its new bridge over I-39/90/94. Based on information provided by WisDOT, it is WDNR's understanding that the proposed action will result in WisDOT acquiring approximately 0.70 acres of Dekorra Public Hunting Ground for right-of-way purposes. The land to be acquired is located along the south side of County V and east of Unnamed Creek.

WDNR has requested discussion related to a potential access gate at the rest area to provide access to the south side of the Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds. The project team has committed to facilitating a discussion with WisDOT Bureau of Highway Maintenance, Rob Knorr and others to further discuss the access gate.

WDNR has reviewed the anticipated impacts of the proposed action and have determined that impacts would be de minimis in nature and will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that make the Dekorra Public Hunting Ground eligible for Section 4(f) protection. If design changes occur as project plans evolve, please contact WDNR to discuss the changes in impacts and we will re-evaluate our position.

If further information or action on WDNR's part is required, please do not hesitate to contact Andy Barta at 608-275-3308 or [Andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Barta', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Barta

- cc: Sarah Kehlri – Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds Property Manager
- Andy Paulios – DNR Wildlife
- Mike LaBissoniere – DNR Real Estate
- Joel Brown – DOT
- Brandon Lamers – DOT
- Dan Shave – DOT
- Ryan Mayer - DOT



1-14-20

Jennifer Grimes  
WisDOT Division of Transportation Systems Development  
Southwest Region  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison WI 53704

---

**Subject: Comment on Alternatives Analysis and Preferred Alternative**  
Project I.D. 1010-10-01  
I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge  
Columbia County

Dear Ms. Grimes:

WisDOT is in the planning stages to address the aging bridges on I-39/90/94 over the Wisconsin River in Columbia county. As part of the design and planning process, WisDOT has narrowed the possible project options down to four potential alternatives. Based on an more analysis of the impacts and ability of those options to meet the purpose and need of this project, WisDOT has identified a single preferred alternative to carry forward into planning. The purpose of this letter is for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide comment on the 4 preliminary alternatives, the alternatives evaluation, and on WisDOT's preferred alternative.

**Purpose and Need**

The primary need for this project is to address the existing condition of this crossing. The purpose and need for this project was outlined in detail in the *Purpose and Need Summary* dated March 2019. The Department of Natural Resources has reviewed that document and provided comment and support in letter dated 4-12-19.

**Preliminary Alternatives**

The project team developed four preliminary alternatives for further analysis. Alternatives were evaluated for their ability to meet the project needs while balancing impacts to resources and the community needs.

**-No-Build Alternative:** Do nothing to the existing bridge.

The no-build alternative consists of doing nothing to address the ageing I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge. No repair, maintenance, or construction activities of any sort would occur on the bridge. Eventually the bridge would need to be closed due to safety concerns. Interstate traffic would be forced to use an alternate route to cross the Wisconsin River.

Since this alternative does not meet the purpose and need for this project, it was not carried forward for further detailed alternatives analysis.

It should be noted although initially a no-build alternative might seem to have little environmental impact, it's likely this option would result in significant impacts spread across a broad geographic region. If this interstate crossing of the Wisconsin river were to be abandoned and traffic routed elsewhere, it is likely that significant capacity expansions would be required elsewhere to accommodate the increase in traffic resulting in yet unknown impacts to local resources. If this scenario were to play out to its full degree, eventually the bridge would need to be removed as it deteriorated, and this work would have environmental impacts on par with construction of a new bridge but without the public benefits to transportation systems.

**-Rehabilitation Alternative:** Repair existing bridge in its current location.

The Rehabilitation Alternative represents phases of rehabilitation work that would be completed on the existing I-39/90/94 to prolong its useable life. This alternative would feature 3 phases of rehabilitation work followed by a complete replacement around 2045.

- Phase 1 (approx. 2025-2026) Two construction seasons
  - Girder painting, deck replacement, 1<sup>st</sup> round of structural steel repairs, bearing replacement, and pier wrapping.
- Phase 2 (approx. 2027) One construction season
  - Thin polymer overlay
- Phase 3 (approx. 2035) One construction season
  - Second round of steel repairs
- Full bridge replacement (approx. 2045)

This alternative results in substantial user delays related to frequent construction activities as demonstrated in your alternatives analysis submittal. Traffic backups are anticipated 157 times with an average queue distance of 8 miles and lasting 7.3 hrs. on average. Maximum backups could reach 41.3 miles and last up to 19 hrs. This alternative does meet the primary purpose and need for this project but does a very poor job of meeting secondary needs associated with user impacts. As such, this alternative was not carried forward for more detailed analysis.

Additionally, this alternative would result in many of the same impacts we anticipate from a full bridge reconstruction, and those impacts could occur multiple times in a 20yr window making this alternative less desirable than a full replacement project.

The work outlined in Phase 1 would almost certainly require use of a causeway and associated disturbances to access the bridge and complete the described work. These impacts would be similar to what we anticipate from a full bridge replacement. With this alternative, these impacts would occur a second time within a 20-year window.

**-East Alternative:** Construct a new bridge just east of the existing structure.

The east alternative represents a complete replacement of the existing I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge. The existing single structure would be replaced to two new bridges, the first of which would be constructed just east of the existing structure. Traffic would be shifted to allow for portions of the existing bridge to be removed for the construction of the other bridge. This strategy allows for three lanes of traffic in each direction to remain open during construction.

The I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would be shifted east to align the roadway to the new bridges. The mainline would be reconstructed to match the current lane configuration, three 12-foot lanes in each direction. The CTH U and CTH V overpasses would be reconstructed to address alignment and access concerns. Bridges from this alternative would last well beyond the project design year of 2045 and would require routine inspection and maintenance much like all similar structures throughout Wisconsin.

The east alternative would require building a retaining wall to prevent impacts to the ATC transmission line towers along St. Lawrence Bluff Road. The retaining wall would be a maximum of 35 feet high and maintain a minimum of 17 feet of separation from the transmission structures.

Since this alternative meets the project purpose and needs, it was carried forward for further analysis.

**-West Alternative:** Construct a new bridge just west of the existing structure.

The west alternative represents a complete replacement of the existing I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge. The existing single structure would be replaced to two new bridges, the first of which would be constructed just west of the existing structure. Traffic would be shifted to allow for portions of the existing bridge to be removed for the construction of the other bridge. This strategy allows for three lanes of traffic in each direction to remain open during construction.

The I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would be shifted east to align the roadway to the new bridges. The mainline would be reconstructed to match the current lane configuration, three 12-foot lanes in each direction. The CTH U and and CTH V overpasses would be reconstructed to address alignment and access concerns. Bridges from this alternative would last well beyond the project design year of 2045 and would require routine inspection and maintenance much like all similar structures throughout Wisconsin.

The west alternative would result in impacts to Oak Knoll Drive, a dead end. Mainline construction would shorten Oak Knoll Drive by 425 feet cutting off access to 6 residences and 2 additional properties would be acquired since they would be within the proposed right of way.

Since this alternative meets the project purpose and needs, it was carried forward for further analysis.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources feels these alternatives adequately reflects the range of practicable and reasonable alternatives for this project.

### **Alternatives Impacts**

The east and west alternatives were further analyzed and impacts to area resources were evaluated against the control of a no build alternative. Factors considered include impacts to agricultural lands, floodplains, the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage water trail, hazardous materials, historic properties, noise analysis, parcel impacted, protected public lands, threatened and endangered species, water resources and wetlands.

Many of the impacts to natural resources and riverway users would be similar between the east and west alternatives. The causeway required for construction would likely be in place for the same time period and built in a similar location. The biggest difference in impacts from a resource standpoint would be the acreage impacted within the Dekorra Hunting Grounds. The west alternative would impact about 1 acre of this property where the east alternative would impact 0.07 acres resulting from the CTH V overpass reconstruction. That taking was already determined to be de-minimus in nature and will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes of the Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds property, as detailed in a letter to WisDOT dated 1-9-20.

### **WisDOT Recommended Alternative: East Alternative**

WisDOT recommended Alternative is based on the alternative that best meets the project's purpose and need and best minimized impacts to the surrounding resources and community.

The East Alternative is the WisDOT recommended alternative because:

- It does not impact historic properties
- Does not require residential relocations
- Less impacts to protected public lands (Dekorrra Public Hunting Grounds)
- Less amount of private land needed for conversion to DOT right-of-way.

The Wisconsin DNR agrees with WisDOT's assessment and supports the recommended East Alternative. We find the methodology and alternative analysis to adequately document and accurately account for impacts to potentially affected resources. The recommended alternative best limits impacts to the adjacent environment and communities while providing for a safe and efficient transportation system.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this project and we look forward to continued coordination moving forward.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding is letter, please don't hesitate to contact Andy Barta at 608-275-3308, or email at [andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

*Andy Barta*

Andy Barta  
Environmental Analysis & Review Specialist

cc: Ian Chidister – FHWA-WI  
Joe Balice – FHWA-WI  
Brandon Lamers – WisDOT  
Joel Brown – WisDOT



Jess Billmeyer – AECOM  
Ashley Schulze -AECOM  
Eric Heggelund – DNR  
Sarah Kehlri – DNR, property manager



12-11-2020

Daniel Schave  
Project Manager – Major Studies  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation SW Region  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison WI 53704

**Subject: DNR Comment on Environmental Assessment**  
Project I.D. 1010-10-01  
Wisconsin River Bridge  
Columbia County

Dear Mr. Schave:

**Purpose and Need:**

The purpose and need for this project area clearly and concisely presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA). As stated, the current bridge structure has deteriorated to the point where rehabilitation is no longer adequate or feasible and the crossing must be constructed to maintain traffic flow across the Wisconsin River. Additional improvements have been considered to address secondary needs such as projected traffic volumes and current geometric deficiencies. We find the information and logic provided to be reasonable and factual and have no additional comments to add. More detailed comments on purpose and need for this project was provided in a letter dated 4-12-19.

**Alternatives Analysis:**

WisDOT has considered 4 preliminary alternatives for this project, a no-build, a rehabilitation, and an eastern and western reconstruction option. These alternatives have been reviewed in detail and comment on the preferred alternative was provided in a letter dated 1-14-2020. DNR agrees with WisDOT's preferred East alternative. As an alternative it is preferred by DNR because:

- It does not impact historic properties
- Does not require residential relocations
- Less impacts to protected public lands (Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds)
- Less amount of private land needed for conversion to DOT right-of-way.

Additionally, the eastern alternative would not result in any greater impacts to endangered/threatened resources, water quality, or any other environmental concern under the Department's purview than the other investigated alternatives. Given that background, we feel the East alternative has the least all-around impacts to the local environment.

**Continued Coordination:**

From the early stages of project conception, WisDOT has ensured WisDNR has a seat at the table and has sought DNR input and feedback at every step. It is our opinion that the Environmental Assessment does a good job of detailing the design work and discussions to date and presents them in an understandable and concise manner. While the EA adequately address the work and coordination to date, we are aware there will be continued close coordination as the design moves forward. We appreciate WisDOT's commitment to ensure the project is designed and constructed in a manner that minimizes impacts to the numerous resources present at the project site.

As the design moves forward, we look forward to continued coordination and dialogue regarding protections for the endangered and threatened species that utilize adjacent habitats, construction and erosion control practices to minimize off site impacts, and staging opportunities to minimize temporary impacts from the construction and demolition process.

Thank you for this opportunity to review the environmental assessment and to provide feedback. We look forward to continued dialogue moving forward.

Sincerely,

*Andy Barta*

Environmental Analysis & Review Specialist

cc: Joel Brown - WisDOT REC  
Jenny Grimes – WisDOT REC  
Michael Hoelker – WisDOT  
Brandon Lamers – WisDOT  
Jess Billmeyer – AECOM  
Ashley Schulze - AECOM

## Dredske, Logan

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**From:** Barta, Andrew H - DNR <Andrew.Barta@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 3:30 PM  
**To:** Joel Brown  
**Cc:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT; Dredske, Logan; Schulze, Ashley; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges; Rowe, Stacy A - DNR; Kitchel, Lisie E - DNR  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge NHI review

Hi Joel,

In response to the new information on the [REDACTED] I have renewed the NHI review for this project. As of 4-12-2021, the only change to the NHI portal is the addition of the [REDACTED] to this project location. Please take the below information as an amendment to the Initial comment letter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Let me know if you have any questions or comments regarding this species, or any other aspect of this project. I look forward to continued coordination on this project.

Andy

**We are committed to service excellence.**

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customerurvey> to evaluate how I did.

**Andy Barta**

Phone: 608-235-2955

andrew.barta@wisconsin.gov

---

**From:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2021 11:18 AM  
**To:** Barta, Andrew H - DNR <Andrew.Barta@wisconsin.gov>  
**Cc:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Dredske, Logan <logan.dredske@aecom.com>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge NHI review

Andy,

As you are aware, during the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge EA Availability Period, Ron Grasshoff provided comments on behalf of Wisconsin Green Fire provided comments that identified the presence of the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Since the comments were received we have communicated numerous times and discussed that an update to the NHI has been completed and now includes the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the area.

The project team just completed a public hearing for the project that included both virtual and in-person components. Now that the hearing is completed, we are working on addressing comments and updating the EA with information presented during the document availability period and during both public hearing components. To assist and further provide information related to the update, if you could, please provide an update to the NHI review for the project. Once receiving the information, we look forward to discussing the [REDACTED] and any other species identified in the area that were not previously identified.

Thank you

Joel Brown

*Bureau of Technical Services*

*Environmental Process and Documentation Section*

*Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation*

*608-630-3202*

**Appendix 3:**  
**State Historic Preservation Office Coordination**



**SECTION 106 REVIEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
DT1635 6/2014

**SHPO**

For instructions, see [FDM Chapter 26](#).

**I. PROJECT INFORMATION**

Amended Submittal (include new information only)

Project ID 1010-10-01	Highway – Street I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge	County Columbia
Project Termini Northern Terminus: end of the southbound taper from the I-90/94 & I-39/WIS 78 interchange Southbound Terminus: Black Road		Region – Office Southwest
Regional Project Engineer – Project Manager Dan Schave		(Area Code) Telephone Number (608) 246-3251
Consultant Project Engineer – Project Manager Ashley Schulze, AECOM		(Area Code) Telephone Number (608) 828-8169
Archaeological Consultant UWM-Cultural Resource Management		(Area Code) Telephone Number (414) 229-3078
Architecture/History Consultant UWM Cultural Resource Managements		(Area Code) Telephone Number (414) 229-3078
Date of Need		SHSW Number 0141 20-0142 CO
Return a Signed Copy of This Form to		

*XREF - 16-0008, 14-0970*

**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project Length 1.8 miles	Land to be Acquired: Fee Simple 13.1 acres	Land to be Acquired: Easement 0 acres
-----------------------------	---	--

Distance as measured from existing centerline	Existing	Proposed	Other Factors	Existing	Proposed
Right-of-Way Width	130' - 185'	130' - 240'	Terrace Width	N/A	N/A
Shoulder		12'	Sidewalk Width	N/A	N/A
Slope Intercept	120' - 175'	120' - 230'	Number of Lanes	6	6
Edge of Pavement	60' - 120'	64' - 155'	Grade Separated Crossing	2	2
Back of Curb Line	N/A	N/A	Vision Triangle acres	N/A	N/A
Realignment	N/A	Up to 75'	Temporary Bypass acres	N/A	N/A
Other – List:	N/A	N/A	Stream Channel Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Attach Map(s) that Depict "Maximum" Impacts.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Tree Topping and/or Grubbing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Brief Narrative Project Description:** Include all ground disturbing activities. For archaeology, include plan view map indicating the maximum area of ground disturbance and/or new right-of-way, whichever is greater. Include all temporary, limited and permanent easements. For amendments (e.g. design refinements, scope changes, etc) description should only include new/added project actions and materials.

The I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge project is located in Columbia County, Wisconsin. The project termini extend approximately 1.6 miles to the north and approximately 1.9 miles to the south of the Wisconsin River. The northern terminus for the project is the end of the southbound taper from the I-90/94 & I-39/WIS 78 interchange. The southern terminus for the project is Black Road.

The purpose of the project is to address the structural needs of the aging I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge and maintain vehicular traffic across the Wisconsin River. The primary need for the project is to address the existing condition of the bridge. The project also has secondary needs related to traffic demands and roadway geometrics.

The Preferred Alternative would include replacement of the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge to the east of the existing bridge. A new northbound bridge would be located 15 feet east of the existing bridge and a new southbound bridge would be located in place of the existing bridge. The roadway approaches would be realigned to connect into the new structures. The roadway approaches would consist of three 12-foot travel lanes in each direction and 12-foot inside and outside shoulders. The new bridges would be built wide enough to accommodate a future fourth travel lane, however only three travel lanes would be opened to traffic after construction.

The realignment of the I-39/90/94 approaches would require replacement of the County U and County V bridges over I-39/90/94. County U would be replaced north of the existing structure to keep traffic open during construction. County V would be replaced south of the existing structure to keep traffic open during construction. Both County U and County V would remain 2-lane highways.

The Preferred Alternative can be seen in Exhibit 1.

Add continuation sheet, if needed.



**SECTION 106 REVIEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL INFORMATION** (continued)

Wisconsin Department of Transportation DT1635

**III. CONSULTATION**

How has notification of the project been provided to:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owners                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical Societies/Organizations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Information Meeting Notice | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Information Meeting Notice             | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Info. Mtg. Notice          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letter - Required for Archaeology | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letter                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Call                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Call                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Call                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Email                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                            |

Attach one copy of the base letter, list of addresses and comments received. For history include telephone memos as appropriate.

**IV. AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS – APE**

**ARCHAEOLOGY:** Area of potential effect for archaeology is the existing and proposed ROW, temporary and permanent easements. Agricultural practices do not constitute a ground disturbance exemption.

**HISTORY:** Describe the area of potential effects for buildings/structures.

The APE includes all properties within and adjacent to the project area. All resources that were at least 40 years old and possessed a degree of historic integrity were examined for potential historic significance.

**V. PHASE I – ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR RECONNAISSANCE HISTORY SURVEY NEEDED**

ARCHAEOLOGY	HISTORY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological survey is needed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture/History survey is needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological survey is not needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture/History survey is not needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Screening list (date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Screening list (date)
<input type="checkbox"/> Burial site in project area, Wis. Stat. 157.70 applies	<input type="checkbox"/> No structures or buildings of any kind within APE
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Survey History Documentation attached

**VI. SURVEY COMPLETED**

ARCHAEOLOGY	HISTORY
<input type="checkbox"/> NO archaeological sites(s) identified – ASFR attached	<input type="checkbox"/> NO buildings/structures identified – Report attached
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO potentially eligible site(s) in project area – Phase I Report attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially eligible buildings/structures identified in the APE – Report attached
<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially eligible site(s) identified-Phase I Report attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Avoided through redesign
<input type="checkbox"/> Avoided through redesign	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously listed/eligible property identified in the APE – Report attached
<input type="checkbox"/> Phase II conducted – go to VII (Evaluation)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Phase I Report – Cemetery/cataloged burial documentation	

**VII. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY (EVALUATION) COMPLETED**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No arch site(s) eligible for NRHP – Phase II Report attached	<input type="checkbox"/> No buildings/structure(s) eligible for NRHP – DOE attached
<input type="checkbox"/> Arch site(s) eligible for NRHP – Phase II Report attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Building/structure(s) eligible for NRHP – DOE attached
<input type="checkbox"/> Site(s) eligible for NRHP – DOE attached	

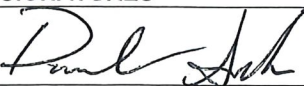
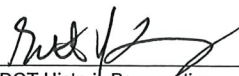



**VIII. COMMITMENTS/SPECIAL PROVISIONS – must be included with special provisions language**

- Per Wis. Stat. 157.70 obtain burial authorization from WHS one year prior to construction.
- Two parcels, N3805 + N4532 Cty. Rd. J, Poynette (see page 64+65 of arch report) were unsurveyed due to property owner denial, once permission/access is obtained, both parcels will be subject to field survey.

**IX. PROJECT DECISION**

- No historic properties (historical or archaeological) in the APE.
- No historic properties (historical or archaeological) affected. -See CRT memo.
- Historic properties (historical and/or archaeological) may be affected by project;
- Go to Step 4: Assess affects and begin consultation on affects.
- Documentation for Determination of No Adverse Effects is included with this form. WisDOT has concluded that this project will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. Signature by SHPO below indicates SHPO concurrence in the DNAE and concludes the Section 106 Review process for this project.

**X. SIGNATURES**

<b>X</b>  1-27-20	<b>X</b>  2-6-20	<b>X</b> 
(Regional Project Manager Signature)	(WisDOT Historic Preservation Officer Signature)	(State Preservation Officer Signature)
(Date – m/d/yy)	(Date – m/d/yy)	(Date – m/d/yy)
<b>X</b>  1-24-20		 March 9 2020
(Consultant Project Manager Signature)	(Date – m/d/yy)	

**Appendix 4:**  
**Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Coordination**  
**Updated: 4-3 thru 4-4**



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Tony Evers

---

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**

November 8, 2019

Joel Brown  
WisDOT Bureau of Technical Services  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Joel Brown:

Re: Project ID: 1010-10-01  
Project Name: I 39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge  
County: Columbia

The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has reviewed the notification and any supplemental information you have provided concerning the potential need for an agricultural impact statement (AIS) for the above project. We have determined that an AIS will not be prepared for this project, based on the reasoning provided below.

Please note that if the proposed project or project specifications are altered in any way which could be construed as increasing the potential adverse effects of the project on agriculture or on any farm operation, DATCP should be renotified. Please contact me with any questions.

Since each of the proposed acquisitions of farm property is 5 acres or less, DATCP has discretion over whether or not to prepare an AIS. No AIS will be prepared for this project since none of the other impacts on agriculture appear to be significant.

Sincerely,

Alice Halpin  
Agricultural Impact Statements  
(608)224-4646  
Alice.Halpin@wi.gov  
DATCP ID: #4316

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	4. Sheet 1 of _____
---	------------------------------------	---------------------

1. Name of Project	5. Federal Agency Involved
--------------------	----------------------------

2. Type of Project	6. County and State
--------------------	---------------------

<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>	1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
--	----------------------------------	---------------------------

3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size
---	--

5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: _____ %	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: _____ %
------------------	---	--

8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS
--	---	---

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment</b>			
---	---	--	--	--

	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor				

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>	
--	--

A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	
--	--

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5			
8. On-Farm Investments	20			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10			
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>			

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	
---	--

Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160			
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>			

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------	---	-----------------------	--

5. Reason For Selection:
--------------------------

Signature of Person Completing this Part:	DATE
---	------

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

## Dredske, Logan

---

**From:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 8:51 AM  
**To:** DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges  
**Cc:** Joel Brown; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT; Lamers, Brandon - DOT; Schulze, Ashley; Dredske, Logan  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

FYI

---

**From:** Zopp, Zach P - DATCP <zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 8:48 AM  
**To:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

Hello Daniel,

The Agricultural Impact Statement Program, as part of DATCP, has no comment.

Thank you,

Zach Zopp  
*Agricultural Impact Statement Program Manager / Land and Water Program Specialist*  
Bureau of Land and Water Resources - Division of Agricultural Resource Management  
WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
608-224-4650  
[zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov](mailto:zach.zopp@wisconsin.gov)

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---

**From:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 7:55 AM  
**To:** DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Billmeyer, Jess <[jess.billmeyer@aecom.com](mailto:jess.billmeyer@aecom.com)>; Schulze, Ashley <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>  
**Subject:** WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

Hello,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is providing notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment and notice of opportunity to request a public hearing for a proposed improvement on Interstate 39/90/94 in Columbia County, Wisconsin.

The proposed improvement includes:

- Replacement of the existing Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge with a new bridge that would accommodate construction staging, future maintenance work and future traffic needs
- Replacement of the County U and County V bridges over Interstate 39/90/94
- Construction of retaining walls to avoid impacts to transmission structures

There will be no relocation of persons or businesses as a result of the proposed improvement.

An online copy of the Environmental Assessment can be viewed at the following:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/i399094-bridge/default.aspx>

A public hearing may be requested by individuals to whom the proposed project is of significant concern. If you feel the project is of significant concern, I encourage you to contact me to discuss those concerns prior to requesting a public hearing.

The attached PDF contains additional details of the Environmental Assessment availability as well as the opportunity to request a public hearing.

Please reach out if you have comments or questions related to the proposed improvement.

Sincerely,

***Daniel Schave, P.E.***

Project Manager – Major Studies  
WisDOT – Southwest region  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704  
*(608) 246-3251 office*  
*(608) 716-1585 cell*

**Appendix 5:**  
**United States Army Corps of Engineers Coordination**  
**Updated: 5-10 thru 5-11**

## Dredske, Logan

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**From:** Schulze, Ashley  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 10:50 AM  
**To:** Dredske, Logan  
**Subject:** FW: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, USACE Initial project notification letter  
**Attachments:** RE: WisDOT Project ID 1010-10-01, IH 39/90/94, Wisconsin River Bridges B-11-22/23 & Approaches, Columbia County Submittal

This email needs two separate updates, one for the USACE response, and then one for WisDOT responding back.

-----Original Message-----

From: Knorr, Robert - DOT [mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov]  
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 8:26 AM  
To: Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (US)  
Cc: Brown, Joel R - DOT; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT; Schulze, Ashley; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges; Balice, Joe; Holt, Daniel  
Subject: RE: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, USACE Initial project notification letter

Good morning Kyle,

Thank you for the information in your response about the Wisconsin River Bridge EA. We did receive the attached correspondence from the USCG concerning this project. In summary, the USCG has suspended their jurisdiction pertaining to bridge permitting authorities for this specific portion of the Wisconsin River. We will continue coordinating with you on applicable 404 permits and the EA process as you mentioned below.

Robert Knorr

-----Original Message-----

From: Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) [mailto:Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil]  
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 8:44 AM  
To: Knorr, Robert - DOT <Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov>  
Subject: RE: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, USACE Initial project notification letter

Robert-

Thanks for the follow-up reminder for comment. My initial comment is that the Wisconsin River near Portage, WI is a federal navigable water. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regulates bridges and causeways in navigable waters pursuant to Section 9 of the River and Harbors Act. Therefore, I recommend coordinating with Mr. Scot Striffler of the USCG (Scot.M.Striffler@uscg.mil) for their comments on replacing the bridges. I've included a link to the USCG Bridge Program website below. It's my experience on other similar-type projects that the USCG has an abbreviated permit process for bridge projects on the WI River. The Corps would still regulate the placement of dredged and fill material in the Wisconsin River, its tributaries, and adjacent wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please continue coordinating with me on applicable Section 404 permits required for the projects. We can also provide more specific comment on the projects during the FHWA Environmental Assessment (EA) process. I hope this information helps steer the projects. If you have any questions, please contact me via email or at the telephone number below.

[https://secure-web.cisco.com/1zZFkvarb3eBisc\\_E4TymsXlq7Zn8gaDPmQs0BOUXDHP02G3CtdTg11rC4skCayHSpUg-zYEOc4R6cz9ic5TNTqELiOXgwT-nHXIZmK03DfQKbcMruejik6XapPz2bqhRNKByEXC4tr2Mx7HKgCePfiRBT-fY5qW4jLgHUo2oarXlZLX7UHeO0fTUzGhz\\_8fE28Lfn5t1cLHnnGRIDspB-](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1zZFkvarb3eBisc_E4TymsXlq7Zn8gaDPmQs0BOUXDHP02G3CtdTg11rC4skCayHSpUg-zYEOc4R6cz9ic5TNTqELiOXgwT-nHXIZmK03DfQKbcMruejik6XapPz2bqhRNKByEXC4tr2Mx7HKgCePfiRBT-fY5qW4jLgHUo2oarXlZLX7UHeO0fTUzGhz_8fE28Lfn5t1cLHnnGRIDspB-)



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AiZulid2zg/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dco.uscg.mil%2FOffice-of-Bridge-Programs%2F

Thanks,

Kyle Zibung  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
2926 Post Rd, Suite B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: (651) 290-5877

[http://secure-web.cisco.com/1ggQVDZ-500lbYXLT2ZigpSWLVEz0HUtxYaciO1SE-R0NszL70BCW4BOH2c5BS51nZL\\_MSMpA7vyECbOraHFmDSVFzdGbGAXo1LZJG\\_W3cG6LUz8NaWJdEhuuZlsg0D8MqgSvuUBkj\\_kLsqE5jgUcSq5ir7eOF5ttqkU0WeZcqARr0gzgBOGbDRellKyOSJXkuqsbmVo2YsRaPKn1YGf-TPuOAR7llcS4jaYS1V\\_R2f1T8c5pTK3NrI3HKGyeCjq/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mvp.usace.army.mil](http://secure-web.cisco.com/1ggQVDZ-500lbYXLT2ZigpSWLVEz0HUtxYaciO1SE-R0NszL70BCW4BOH2c5BS51nZL_MSMpA7vyECbOraHFmDSVFzdGbGAXo1LZJG_W3cG6LUz8NaWJdEhuuZlsg0D8MqgSvuUBkj_kLsqE5jgUcSq5ir7eOF5ttqkU0WeZcqARr0gzgBOGbDRellKyOSJXkuqsbmVo2YsRaPKn1YGf-TPuOAR7llcS4jaYS1V_R2f1T8c5pTK3NrI3HKGyeCjq/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mvp.usace.army.mil)

-----Original Message-----

From: Knorr, Robert - DOT [mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 9:57 AM  
To: Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) <Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil>  
Cc: Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>; Balice, Joe <joe.balice@dot.gov>; Holt, Daniel <daniel.holt@dot.gov>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, USACE Initial project notification letter

Good Morning Kyle,

This email is a follow-up to the previously sent correspondence referenced below from August 20th. We are interested if you have any comments regarding this bridge replacement project. Thank you in advance for your timely response.

Robert Knorr, P.E.  
Project Manager - Major Studies Unit  
WisDOT Southwest Region  
2101 Wright St. <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0> Madison, WI 53704-2583 <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0>  
Office: (608) 246-5444 <tel:(608)%20246-5444> robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov <mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov>

---

From: Knorr, Robert - DOT  
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 6:16 PM  
To: 'kyle.d.zibung@usace.army.mil' <kyle.d.zibung@usace.army.mil>  
Cc: Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; 'Schulze, Ashley' <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>  
Subject: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, USACE Initial project notification letter

Kyle,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have started to evaluate the future replacement of the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridges near Portage, Wisconsin. I've attached a

letter concerning the details and a project location map for your reference. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Robert Knorr, P.E.

Project Manager - Major Studies Unit

WisDOT Southwest Region

2101 Wright St. <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0> Madison, WI 53704-2583 <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0>

Office: (608) 246-5444 <tel:(608)%20246-5444> robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov <mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov>

## Dredske, Logan

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**From:** Schulze, Ashley  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2019 10:08 AM  
**To:** Dredske, Logan  
**Subject:** FW: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, USACE

-----Original Message-----

From: Knorr, Robert - DOT [mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov]  
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:26 PM  
To: Chidister, Ian (FHWA)  
Cc: Balice, Joe; Brown, Joel R - DOT; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT; Billmeyer, Jess; Schulze, Ashley  
Subject: FW: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, USACE

FYI.

-----Original Message-----

From: Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) <Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil>  
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:18 PM  
To: Knorr, Robert - DOT <Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov>  
Subject: RE: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, USACE

Rob-

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. A Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA) permit would be required for the placement of dredged and fill material into waters of the U.S. Specific to this project, a CWA permit would be required for the placement of dredged and fill material into the Wisconsin River, its tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. The Wisconsin River is a federal navigable water at this location. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regulates the construction of bridges and causeways in federal navigable waters pursuant to Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Below is a link to the USCG Office of Bridge Programs for more information. While the USCG has authority over the bridge construction itself, the Corps would still retain authority over work regulated under the CWA. Common examples of work regulated under the CWA are wetland fill for roadway widening and fill material placed below the ordinary high water mark of the Wisconsin River. The Corps St. Paul District has a Transportation Regional General Permit (TRGP) which can authorize the loss of 3.0 acres or less of waters of the U.S. for an overall project. Projects exceeding the 3.0 acre TRGP loss threshold would need to be evaluated under an Individual Permit. CWA permitting requirements require that applicants demonstrate that their preferred alternative is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. We would welcome the opportunity to provide specific comments related to CWA permitting once alternatives are developed for this project. If you have any questions, please contact me via email or at the telephone number listed below.

USCG Office of Bridge Programs

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_\\_secure-2Dweb.cisco.com\\_1YUP-5FFHrEvpQq2bMrwhe8wsXfyCYyGpaODYNX7kF1C-5FJfvOq9I2e-2Did-5F-5FZieYJ2qj0ukG-5FkVQxX1ce5TJUcRnsnM6ubVnRSBeolWv9nfGG3DLCWwjOEJzOtZl90HT8VJqoIJ9c9crvaq9dIEzaUuLMmofRh1cpA41iq-2DdqKYM5s4BaTRwNoC8gQDVHIREVzqPm-5FXTTZ3-2DjHFvQgH-2DnF-5FAJLg2KwasZUENok0huVJjZZp0YAnFB-5F6D5Ulv7pOQA-5Fdczll03vanSy5e-5FqxhikjZjw\\_https-253A-252F-252Fwww.dco.uscg.mil-252FOffice-2Dof-2DBridge-2DPrograms-252F&d=DwIFAg&c=TQzoP61-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__secure-2Dweb.cisco.com_1YUP-5FFHrEvpQq2bMrwhe8wsXfyCYyGpaODYNX7kF1C-5FJfvOq9I2e-2Did-5F-5FZieYJ2qj0ukG-5FkVQxX1ce5TJUcRnsnM6ubVnRSBeolWv9nfGG3DLCWwjOEJzOtZl90HT8VJqoIJ9c9crvaq9dIEzaUuLMmofRh1cpA41iq-2DdqKYM5s4BaTRwNoC8gQDVHIREVzqPm-5FXTTZ3-2DjHFvQgH-2DnF-5FAJLg2KwasZUENok0huVJjZZp0YAnFB-5F6D5Ulv7pOQA-5Fdczll03vanSy5e-5FqxhikjZjw_https-253A-252F-252Fwww.dco.uscg.mil-252FOffice-2Dof-2DBridge-2DPrograms-252F&d=DwIFAg&c=TQzoP61-)

bYDBLzNd0XmHrw&r=PrDYuCPkmOOdfwz\_KKNzdSRwXuYivY9gPNVTUJ6phEo&m=ipNW04qEWIDQ04jNINgZw1fVgfe8CY  
njwaStSgPGKng&s=PT4JYcqYv7OuTPAvpvNSBVIKzJ5JW9ZP4L21\_bslG-Y&e=

Regards,

Kyle Zibung  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
2926 Post Rd, Suite B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: (651) 290-5877

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A\\_\\_secure-2Dweb.cisco.com\\_1hdzX2mKPDMx5ZpiPpYYz-5FSuIVBtq9AFXn0NfcTbZ-5Fjsy0Jn42hwt2X1J92CEgUOow8etb1HuCezOIT2rDS47XJqIRliSt0aBs8sceg0N9-2D0xv0ReeGjMeQhwjbt4IHPWPMQ71Zw4U3Rm44JdbgiCkCHDzBhqRMjOAPG-5FmyO4glZlguibJMwJKqCdosZiXACYpfrOeJljlqQhlfcpIHdD-2DdGoFRJcs7D6qn68dcVGNgLckiwPo49hvDiuThjQ2C-5FLGdUnlgAUM1up3mbNPrUEw\\_http-253A-252F-252Fwww.mvp.usace.army.mil&d=DwIFAg&c=TQzoP61-bYDBLzNd0XmHrw&r=PrDYuCPkmOOdfwz\\_KKNzdSRwXuYivY9gPNVTUJ6phEo&m=ipNW04qEWIDQ04jNINgZw1fVgfe8CYnjwaStSgPGKng&s=12OVHcmvvvU-YKaiWW7x6wNCecqBygjlruc-dzywAi8&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__secure-2Dweb.cisco.com_1hdzX2mKPDMx5ZpiPpYYz-5FSuIVBtq9AFXn0NfcTbZ-5Fjsy0Jn42hwt2X1J92CEgUOow8etb1HuCezOIT2rDS47XJqIRliSt0aBs8sceg0N9-2D0xv0ReeGjMeQhwjbt4IHPWPMQ71Zw4U3Rm44JdbgiCkCHDzBhqRMjOAPG-5FmyO4glZlguibJMwJKqCdosZiXACYpfrOeJljlqQhlfcpIHdD-2DdGoFRJcs7D6qn68dcVGNgLckiwPo49hvDiuThjQ2C-5FLGdUnlgAUM1up3mbNPrUEw_http-253A-252F-252Fwww.mvp.usace.army.mil&d=DwIFAg&c=TQzoP61-bYDBLzNd0XmHrw&r=PrDYuCPkmOOdfwz_KKNzdSRwXuYivY9gPNVTUJ6phEo&m=ipNW04qEWIDQ04jNINgZw1fVgfe8CYnjwaStSgPGKng&s=12OVHcmvvvU-YKaiWW7x6wNCecqBygjlruc-dzywAi8&e=)

-----Original Message-----

From: Knorr, Robert - DOT [mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 1:18 PM  
To: Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) <Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil>  
Cc: Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <ian.chidister@dot.gov>; Balice, Joe <joe.balice@dot.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Billmeyer, Jess <jess.billmeyer@aecom.com>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, USACE

Hello Kyle,

We look forward to receiving your agency's comments on the Wisconsin River Bridge Purpose & Need Summary. Please note that we requested comments by April 14th, which falls on Sunday. For practical purposes we ask that you provide any written comments by Monday, April 15, 2019. Thank you.

Robert Knorr, P.E.

Project Manager - Major Studies Unit

WisDOT Southwest Region

2101 Wright St. <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0>

Madison, WI 53704-2583 <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0>

(608) 246-5444 <tel:(608)%20246-5444>

robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov <mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov>

From: Knorr, Robert - DOT

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:08 PM

To: kyle.d.zibung@usace.army.mil

Cc: Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <ian.chidister@dot.gov>; Balice, Joe <joe.balice@dot.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Billmeyer, Jess <jess.billmeyer@aecom.com>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>

Subject: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, USACE

Kyle,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration have prepared a summary of the Purpose and Need Statement for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Attached please find the project's purpose and need summary and a letter requesting your agency's review and comment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Robert Knorr, P.E.

Project Manager - Major Studies Unit

WisDOT Southwest Region

2101 Wright St. <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0>

Madison, WI 53704-2583 <x-apple-data-detectors://1/0>

(608) 246-5444 <tel:(608)%20246-5444>

robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov <mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov>

## Dredske, Logan

---

**From:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA); Schave, Daniel L - DOT; Brown, Joel R - DOT  
**Subject:** RE: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USACE

Kyle,

Thank you for the response on the alternative summary and additional information about the project area.

Jenny,

Jennifer Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator  
Mega Team Projects & Planning Major Studies  
WisDOT Southwest Region – Edgerton  
111 Interstate Blvd, Edgerton, WI 53534  
Phone 608.516.9760  
[jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:58 AM  
**To:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <ian.chidister@dot.gov>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USACE

Jenny-

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the summary of alternatives for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project. The St. Paul District Regulatory Branch concurs with the scope of alternatives presented in the December 2019 Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, including WisDOT's recommendation that the East Alternative be carried forward as the preferred alternative in the EA. To aid in our evaluation of the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) for this project, please include a practicable alternatives analysis in the forthcoming EA that clearly demonstrates measures taken to avoid/minimize impacts (temporary and permanent) to aquatic resources for each alternative presented.

We also are providing comments related to historic properties. While we do not have sufficient information to suggest the preferred alternative should be altered, we believe you should be aware that an area of Tribal significance was identified to the east of the existing freeway. This area is not identified in the Wisconsin Historical Society database. During our permit evaluation of the Badger-Coulee transmission line, we worked with the Upper Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office to field identify and avoid an area of tribal significance [REDACTED]. Precise limits of this resource were not identified, but are generally located on the north bluffs of the river to the east of the existing freeway. It is possible that the selected preferred alternative may require additional consultation with the Upper Sioux or other Tribes as part of the FHWA federal process.

We look forward to continued coordination on this project. If you have any questions, please contact me via email or at the telephone number listed below.

Regards,

Kyle Zibung  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Stevens Point Regulatory Field Office  
2926 Post Road, Suite B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 651.290.5877

We are pleased to introduce our new paperless communication procedures in Wisconsin. Requests for action (pre-application consultations, permit applications, requests for delineation concurrences, requests for jurisdictional determinations, and mitigation bank proposals) should be sent directly to the following email: [usace\\_requests\\_wi@usace.army.mil](mailto:usace_requests_wi@usace.army.mil). Please include the county name in the subject line of the email (e.g. Washington County). These changes will improve efficiency, reduce costs and reduce environmental footprint. Additional information can be found in our public notice located here: [http://secure-web.cisco.com/14k\\_4Y8reYI\\_ONA0jSX7C5vpjsEDtqFcSnQtrTg07d28dSwbsqeoJUSGE4zxr5P8Ls137YIG9NWXSJyAPMpl8lQdsObjx1NKZodeYnrJ5\\_pomh2OJm566uM4RxxhYaDCAxkv2XsiYbqPR4fIElyHuFUjnTxkbiaZG6\\_YhTBLjtvD8zdnCDuaqCqy-5IA-W1hIVGi8\\_bbAIElm-TCalfnGrSaplz\\_VMwLeYWS5QmJrOWeE6BGOfhYXWbFjNOX505/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mvp.usace.army.mil%2FMissions%2FRegulatory.aspx](http://secure-web.cisco.com/14k_4Y8reYI_ONA0jSX7C5vpjsEDtqFcSnQtrTg07d28dSwbsqeoJUSGE4zxr5P8Ls137YIG9NWXSJyAPMpl8lQdsObjx1NKZodeYnrJ5_pomh2OJm566uM4RxxhYaDCAxkv2XsiYbqPR4fIElyHuFUjnTxkbiaZG6_YhTBLjtvD8zdnCDuaqCqy-5IA-W1hIVGi8_bbAIElm-TCalfnGrSaplz_VMwLeYWS5QmJrOWeE6BGOfhYXWbFjNOX505/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mvp.usace.army.mil%2FMissions%2FRegulatory.aspx)

-----Original Message-----

From: Grimes, Jennifer - DOT [mailto:[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 11:23 AM  
To: Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <[Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil)>  
Cc: Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USACE

Kyle,

WisDOT is currently documenting its preferred alternative in an Environmental Assessment (EA). If there are any comments your agency would like to be included, please respond by 2/1.

Thank you,

Jenny

Jennifer Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator

Mega Team Projects & Planning Major Studies

WisDOT Southwest Region - Edgerton

111 Interstate Blvd, Edgerton, WI 53534 ' Phone 608.516.9760

\* jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov <mailto:jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov>

From: Grimes, Jennifer - DOT

Sent: Monday, December 09, 2019 5:25 PM

To: kyle.d.zibung@usace.army.mil

Cc: Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <ian.chidister@dot.gov>; Balice, Joe <joe.balice@dot.gov>; Brandon Lamers <Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; Billmeyer, Jess <Jess.Billmeyer@aecom.com>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>

Subject: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USACE

Kyle,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have prepared a summary of the alternative evaluation process for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Attached please find the Alternative Evaluation Summary Report which details the process on how WisDOT identified a recommended alternative and a letter requesting your agency's review and comment.

At this time, we are seeking your agency's comments on the range of alternatives, alternatives evaluation, and the WisDOT recommended alternative. We ask that you provide any written comments by Friday, January 24, 2020.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Jennifer Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator

Mega Team Projects & Planning Major Studies

WisDOT Southwest Region - Edgerton

111 Interstate Blvd, Edgerton, WI 53534 ' Phone 608.516.9760



## Dredske, Logan

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**From:** Schulze, Ashley  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 11:18 AM  
**To:** Dredske, Logan  
**Subject:** FW: WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

---

**From:** Zibung, Kyle D CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Kyle.D.Zibung@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 11:02 AM  
**To:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>  
**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Billmeyer, Jess <Jess.Billmeyer@aecom.com>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

Mr. Schave-

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the FHWA/WDOT Environment Assessment (EA) for the I-39/90/94 crossing of the Wisconsin River (WDOT I.D. 1010-10-01). The Corps concurs with the purpose and need of the project as described in the EA, identification of the East Alternative as the Preferred Alternative, and FONSI determination for this project. As currently proposed, the East Alternative would result in approximately 5.9 acres of unavoidable wetland impacts and would be evaluated by the Corps under a Section 10/404 individual permit. To aid in our future review of a permit application, please include sufficient design plans showing the square footage of all temporary and permanent discharges of dredged and fill material into wetlands and below the ordinary high water mark of the Wisconsin River and its tributaries for this project. To further expedite our permitting process, please also include copies of all correspondence between the lead federal agency (FHWA) and other agencies documenting compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, USDOT Section 4(f) coordination, and other federal laws/responsibilities. Last, the Corps also concurs with the conceptual compensatory mitigation proposal (final credit amounts TBD) of debiting wetland credits from the WDOT World Dairy Center Wetland Mitigation Bank to offset the loss of wetland functions from this project. We appreciate your continued coordination and please contact me via email or at the telephone number below for all future matters related to this project.

Regards,

Kyle Zibung  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Stevens Point Regulatory Field Office  
2926 Post Road, Suite B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 651.290.5877

Information on Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program status during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at:  
<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory>

We are pleased to introduce our new paperless communication procedures in Wisconsin. Requests for action (pre-application consultations, permit applications, requests for delineation concurrences, requests for jurisdictional determinations, and mitigation bank proposals) should be sent directly to the following email: [usace\\_requests\\_wi@usace.army.mil](mailto:usace_requests_wi@usace.army.mil). Please include the county name in the subject line of the email (e.g. Washington County). These changes will improve efficiency, reduce costs and reduce environmental footprint. Additional information can be found in our public notice located here: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

---

**From:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 7:55 AM

**To:** DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>

**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Billmeyer, Jess <[jess.billmeyer@aecom.com](mailto:jess.billmeyer@aecom.com)>; Schulze, Ashley <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

Hello,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is providing notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment and notice of opportunity to request a public hearing for a proposed improvement on Interstate 39/90/94 in Columbia County, Wisconsin.

The proposed improvement includes:

- Replacement of the existing Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge with a new bridge that would accommodate construction staging, future maintenance work and future traffic needs
- Replacement of the County U and County V bridges over Interstate 39/90/94
- Construction of retaining walls to avoid impacts to transmission structures

There will be no relocation of persons or businesses as a result of the proposed improvement.

An online copy of the Environmental Assessment can be viewed at the following:

[Blockedhttps://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/i399094-bridge/default.aspx](https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/i399094-bridge/default.aspx)

A public hearing may be requested by individuals to whom the proposed project is of significant concern. If you feel the project is of significant concern, I encourage you to contact me to discuss those concerns prior to requesting a public hearing.

The attached PDF contains additional details of the Environmental Assessment availability as well as the opportunity to request a public hearing.

Please reach out if you have comments or questions related to the proposed improvement.

Sincerely,

***Daniel Schave, P.E.***

Project Manager – Major Studies

WisDOT – Southwest region

2101 Wright Street

Madison, WI 53704

(608) 246-3251 office

(608) 716-1585 cell

**Appendix 6:**  
**United States Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination**  
**Updated: 6-26 thru 6-28**

**From:** [Brown, Joel R - DOT](#)  
**To:** [Billmeyer, Jess](#); [Schulze, Ashley](#); [Dredske, Logan](#)  
**Cc:** [Knorr, Robert - DOT](#); [Grimes, Jennifer - DOT](#); [Brown, Joel R - DOT](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge,  
**Date:** Thursday, May 09, 2019 3:02:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [1510 Mussel Report WI Complete.pdf](#)

---

Jess, Ashley, Logan

FYI

Joel Brown

*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*  
608-630-3202

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**From:** Brown, Joel R - DOT  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 09, 2019 2:43 PM  
**To:** Horton, Andrew <[andrew\\_horton@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_horton@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Barrette, Alyssa - DOT <[Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov)>; Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Balice, Joe <[joe.balice@dot.gov](mailto:joe.balice@dot.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge,

Andrew,

Thank you for the discussion related to formal Section 7 consultation for the Higgins and Sheepnose mussels in the Wisconsin River under the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge project in Columbia County Wisconsin. During the discussion, you indicated it would be appropriate to utilize the Mussel Survey completed in 2015 by Helms and Associates to assume presence of the species for the project. As requested the Mussel Survey Report is attached.

We discussed project timeline, the project schedule identifies concluding the NEPA process in fall of 2020 with an anticipated EA/FONSI. If a build alternative is selected, construction activities would begin in 2024 at the earliest.

You indicated that the appropriate time for formal consultation to occur for the project is once the NEPA process has identified a single alternative.

You further identified that when an EIS is prepared, formal consultation often occurs following the approval of a DEIS but prior to approval of an FEIS/ROD. When an EA is prepared, often this occurs following the issuance of a FONSI during final design, prior to construction.

Specific to this project, once the FONSI is issued it would be appropriate to initiate and complete formal consultation for impacts to the species at that time. The formal consultation process will

require completion of a Biological Assessment for impacts to the species. Based on the survey completed in 2015, the biological assessment will likely recommend completing relocation surveys and relocating mussels if they would be impacted as construction is staged for the project.

When you are able, please reply all to this e-mail to confirm the discussion we had today, provide any edits to my understanding of our conversation today, confirm the appropriate time to complete formal consultation for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project and provide any other comments you may have related to the project.

I also would like to include, FHWA is the lead federal agency for this project. FHWA project contacts are Ian Chidister and Joe Balice at the FHWA WI-Division Office.

Joel Brown

*Bureau of Technical Services*

*Environmental Process and Document Section*

*Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation*

*608-630-3202*

**From:** [Horton, Andrew](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Joel R - DOT](#)  
**Cc:** [Barrette, Alyssa - DOT](#); [Knorr, Robert - DOT](#); [Grimes, Jennifer - DOT](#); [DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges](#); [Chidister, Ian \(FHWA\)](#); [Balice, Joe](#); [Lamers, Brandon - DOT](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge,  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2019 9:15:34 AM

---

This survey effort will still be valid. You will just need to calculate the anticipated density of Higgin's eye and Sheepnose within the proposed action area and then determine your proposed relocation procedures.

- Andrew

Andrew Horton  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Field Office  
4101 American Blvd East  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665  
(952) 252-0092, ext. 208

On Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 7:10 AM Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)> wrote:

Andrew,

thought I would check in again on this, please reply to this e-mail confirming the contents of the 5/9 e-mail below. Please give me a call to discuss further if needed.

Thank you

Joel Brown  
*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*

608-630-3202

---

**From:** Brown, Joel R - DOT  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 8:33 AM  
**To:** Horton, Andrew <[andrew\\_horton@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_horton@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Barrette, Alyssa - DOT <[Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov)>; Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Balice, Joe <[joe.balice@dot.gov](mailto:joe.balice@dot.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge,

Andrew,

Thought I would check in on receiving a response to the e-mail below. Please give me call to discuss further if needed. We could also schedule a conference call with Alyssa Barrette and Ian Chidister (FHWA) if you desire.

Thank you

Joel Brown  
*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*

608-630-3202

---

**From:** Brown, Joel R - DOT  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 09, 2019 2:43 PM  
**To:** Horton, Andrew <[andrew\\_horton@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_horton@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Barrette, Alyssa - DOT <[Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov)>; Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>; Jenny Grimes ([Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)) <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Ian Chidister ([ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Balice, Joe <[joe.balice@dot.gov](mailto:joe.balice@dot.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge,

Andrew,

Thank you for the discussion related to formal Section 7 consultation for the Higgins and Sheepnose mussels in the Wisconsin River under the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge project in Columbia County Wisconsin. During the discussion, you indicated it would be appropriate to utilize the Mussel Survey completed in 2015 by Helms and Associates to assume presence of the species for the project. As requested the Mussel Survey Report is attached.

We discussed project timeline, the project schedule identifies concluding the NEPA process

in fall of 2020 with an anticipated EA/FONSI. If a build alternative is selected, construction activities would begin in 2024 at the earliest.

You indicated that the appropriate time for formal consultation to occur for the project is once the NEPA process has identified a single alternative.

You further identified that when an EIS is prepared, formal consultation often occurs following the approval of a DEIS but prior to approval of an FEIS/ROD. When an EA is prepared, often this occurs following the issuance of a FONSI during final design, prior to construction.

Specific to this project, once the FONSI is issued it would be appropriate to initiate and complete formal consultation for impacts to the species at that time. The formal consultation process will require completion of a Biological Assessment for impacts to the species. Based on the survey completed in 2015, the biological assessment will likely recommend completing relocation surveys and relocating mussels if they would be impacted as construction is staged for the project.

When you are able, please reply all to this e-mail to confirm the discussion we had today, provide any edits to my understanding of our conversation today, confirm the appropriate time to complete formal consultation for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project and provide any other comments you may have related to the project.

I also would like to include, FHWA is the lead federal agency for this project. FHWA project contacts are Ian Chidister and Joe Balice at the FHWA WI-Division Office.

Joel Brown  
*Bureau of Technical Services*

*Environmental Process and Document Section*

*Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation*  
608-630-3202



**From:** [Brown, Joel R - DOT](#)  
**To:** [Dredske, Logan](#); [Schulze, Ashley](#); [Billmeyer, Jess](#)  
**Cc:** [Brown, Joel R - DOT](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Endangered Mussel Species Discussion  
**Date:** Monday, September 09, 2019 10:45:49 AM

---

FYI

Joel Brown

*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*  
608-630-3202

**From:** Utrup, Nick <[nick\\_utrup@fws.gov](mailto:nick_utrup@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 09, 2019 10:43 AM  
**To:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Barrette, Alyssa - DOT <[Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov)>; Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Endangered Mussel Species Discussion

This looks accurate to me, thank you for the summary.

Nick

Nick Utrup  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Minnesota/Wisconsin Field Office  
4101 American Boulevard East  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Office: (952) 252-0092 Ext. 204  
FAX: (952) 646-2873  
Email: [Nick\\_Utrup@fws.gov](mailto:Nick_Utrup@fws.gov)

On Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 10:35 AM Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)> wrote:

Nick and Ian,

Below are notes from our discussion, last Friday, September 6, 2019 related to the Wisconsin River Bridge project. Please comment or modify my notes if you identify a discrepancy or have additional information that has been inadvertently omitted.

Process to work through formal Section 7 Consultation for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project outlined in the May 9, 2019 e-mail to Andrew Horton is acceptable. Key points outlined in the May 9, 2019 e-mail are as follows:

- 2015 Mussel Survey effort/results are still valid.
- WI-River Bridge project will assume take of two federally listed mussel species for the NEPA process.
- Correct time to initiate Formal Section 7 Consultation for this project is after the NEPA process has been completed (primarily because it is a large, complex bridge crossing project).

In addition to confirming the items above the following discussions occurred related to the project:

- Nick Utrup prefers to resolve any adverse effects prior to getting to formal consultation if possible. This could be completed working with DNR to implement possible mitigation measures prior to needed formal consultation.
  - Joel Brown identified that WisDOT has completed this for projects that may have resulted in an adverse effect to mussel species for small river or stream crossings prior to needing to initiate formal section 7 consultation. The WI-River Bridge project team explored this with DNR in 2015, DNR identified due to the size of the Wisconsin River at the bridge location, they do not have staff to re-locate mussel species for the project. Since DNR does not have capacity, formal consultation will be required for the project.
- Formal consultation should be initiated by submitting a completed Biological Assessment (BA) for the project.
  - The BA needs to include construction staging information and WisDOT's proposal for mitigation of impacts to species. (re-locating mussel species in the river).
  - Once the BA is received, USFWS has 90 days for discussion and to request additional information from WisDOT and FHWA. Following the 90 days, USFWS has 45 days to prepare a Biological Opinion (BO) for impacts to the species.
- Nick Utrup asked what the project team needs from him during the NEPA process.
  - Ian Chidister discussed NEPA project reviews at major milestones (Purpose and Need, Range of Alternatives, Preferred Alternative) and identified the next milestone is Range of Alternatives. Joel identified the Range of Alternatives Summary Memo should be expected in mid October.
    - Joel Brown identified the importance for USFWS to provide a response to the information distributed for review and comment related to range of alternatives for this project. A response will provide WisDOT and FHWA with a level of confidence related to future completion of Section 7 consultation following completion of the NEPA process.
      - Nick Utrup inquired about appropriate format of a response from USFWS related to the range of alternatives

- Joel Brown and Ian Chidister responded that any format is acceptable. An e-mail reply works as well as a formal letter.
  - Joel Brown inquired if follow-up e-mails related to receiving a response from USFWS for major milestones would be acceptable, Nick Utrup identified that he encourages follow-up e-mails and phone calls when WisDOT needs a response from him for a project.
- Ian Chidister inquired on whether Nick would be receiving many WisDOT projects moving forward or if Nick has a specific niche that he will be working within.
  - Nick identified USFWS is still working to determine who would be working primarily on transportation projects in both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Joel Brown

*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*  
608-630-3202

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Brown, Joel R - DOT

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 04, 2019 9:29 AM

**To:** Brown, Joel R - DOT; Nick Utrup; Ian Chidister ([ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov))

**Cc:** Jenny Grimes ([Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)); Barrette, Alyssa - DOT

**Subject:** 1010-10-01, I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Endangered Mussel Species Discussion

**When:** Friday, September 06, 2019 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Skype Meeting

Setting up a meeting to discuss the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge project in Columbia County and bring Nick up to speed on discussions that have occurred previously.

The attached e-mail was previously sent to Nick. In addition to the e-mail, I attached a project location map for reference.

If anyone has questions prior to Friday, please let me know.

Joel Brown

*WisDOT – Bureau of Technical Services*  
608-630-3202

.....  
→ [Join Skype Meeting](#)

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

## Dredske, Logan

---

**From:** Schulze, Ashley  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:23 AM  
**To:** Dredske, Logan  
**Subject:** FW: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USFWS

---

**From:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>  
**Cc:** Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; Billmeyer, Jess <Jess.Billmeyer@aecom.com>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USFWS

Response from USFWS

---

**From:** Utrup, Nick J <[nick\\_utrup@fws.gov](mailto:nick_utrup@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USFWS

Hi Jenny,

I have reviewed the alternatives, but don't have any comments at this stage in the process. Most of our concerns are regarding underwater work involving mussels beds, which should be analyzed through the ESA section 7 process.

Thanks,

Nick

Nick Utrup  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4101 American Boulevard East  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Office: (952) 252-0092 ext. 204

Email: [Nick\\_Utrup@fws.gov](mailto:Nick_Utrup@fws.gov)

**From:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 11:23 AM  
**To:** Utrup, Nick J <[nick\\_utrup@fws.gov](mailto:nick_utrup@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USFWS

Nick,

Do you have any comments on the alternatives under consideration for the Wisconsin River Bridge Project on I-39/90/94?

WisDOT is currently documenting its preferred alternative in an Environmental Assessment (EA). If there are any comments your agency would like to be included, please respond by 2/1.

Jenny

Jennifer Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator  
Mega Team Projects & Planning Major Studies  
WisDOT Southwest Region – Edgerton  
111 Interstate Blvd, Edgerton, WI 53534  
Phone 608.516.9760  
[jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov)

---

**From:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT  
**Sent:** Monday, December 09, 2019 5:25 PM  
**To:** Nick Utrup <[nick\\_utrup@fws.gov](mailto:nick_utrup@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <[ian.chidister@dot.gov](mailto:ian.chidister@dot.gov)>; Balice, Joe <[joe.balice@dot.gov](mailto:joe.balice@dot.gov)>; Brandon Lamers <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Barrette, Alyssa - DOT <[Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Barrette@dot.wi.gov)>; Schulze, Ashley <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>; Billmeyer, Jess <[Jess.Billmeyer@aecom.com](mailto:Jess.Billmeyer@aecom.com)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, USFWS

Nick,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have prepared a summary of the alternative evaluation process for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Attached please find the Alternative Evaluation Summary Report which details the process on how WisDOT identified a recommended alternative and a letter requesting your agency's review and comment.

At this time, we are seeking your agency's comments on the range of alternatives, alternatives evaluation, and the WisDOT recommended alternative. We ask that you provide any written comments by Friday, January 24, 2020.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Jennifer Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator  
Mega Team Projects & Planning Major Studies  
WisDOT Southwest Region – Edgerton  
111 Interstate Blvd, Edgerton, WI 53534  
Phone 608.516.9760  
[jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov)



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office  
2661 Scott Tower Drive  
New Franken, WI 54229-9565  
Phone: (920) 866-1717 Fax: (920) 866-1710

In Reply Refer To:

November 05, 2019

Consultation Code: 03E17000-2019-SLI-0589

Event Code: 03E17000-2020-E-00680

Project Name: WisDOT 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached species list identifies any federally threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project. The list also includes designated critical habitat if present within your proposed project area or affected by your project. This list is provided to you as the initial step of the consultation process required under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, also referred to as Section 7 Consultation.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative) must consult with the Service if they determine their project “may affect” listed species or critical habitat.

Under 50 CFR 402.12(e) (the regulations that implement Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally. You may verify the list by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> at regular intervals during project planning and implementation and completing the same process you used to receive the attached list. As an alternative, you may contact this Ecological Services Field Office for updates.

Please use the species list provided and visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 3 Section 7 Technical Assistance website at - <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/s7process/index.html>. This website contains step-by-step instructions which will help you determine if your project will have an adverse effect on listed species and will help lead you through the Section 7 process.

For all **wind energy projects** and **projects that include installing towers that use guy wires or are over 200 feet in height (e.g., communication towers)**, please contact this field office directly for assistance, even if no federally listed plants, animals or critical habitat are present within your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

Although no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act, be aware that bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), as are golden eagles. Projects affecting these species may require measures to avoid harming eagles or may require a permit. If your project is near an eagle nest or winter roost area, see our Eagle Permits website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/midwestbird/EaglePermits/index.html> to help you determine if you can avoid impacting eagles or if a permit may be necessary.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

# Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office**

2661 Scott Tower Drive  
New Franken, WI 54229-9565  
(920) 866-1717



## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 03E17000-2019-SLI-0589

Event Code: 03E17000-2020-E-00680

Project Name: WisDOT 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

**Project Description:** The project is focused on the I 39/90/94 crossing of the Wisconsin River in Columbia County, and extends approximately 1.6 miles to the north and approximately 1.9 miles to the south. The southern terminus for the project is Black Road. The northern terminus for the project is the end of the southbound taper from the I 90/94 & I 39/WIS 78 interchange. The I-39/90/94 crossing of the Wisconsin River consists of two structures. However, the structures are collectively referred to as the Wisconsin River Bridge.

The purpose of the project is address the needs of the aging I-39/90/94 structures and maintain vehicular traffic across the Wisconsin River in the towns of Dekorra and Caledonia located in Columbia County.

The bridge is inspected every two years to assess the condition of each bridge element. Inspectors assign multiple condition ratings to each bridge element. A portion of the bridge elements were given a rating of poor or severe.

The Wisconsin River Bridge has been repaired seven times since it was constructed in 1961. The past repairs have served as solutions to preserve and extend the service life of the bridge. However even with the past repair work, deficiencies remain with the existing bridge due to the nature of how bridge elements deteriorate over time.

Construction is anticipated for the mid-2020's, dependent on funding.

**Project Location:**

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.45080235847964N89.49647857477623W>



Counties: Columbia, WI

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened

### Birds

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</a>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

### Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake) <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202</a>	Threatened

## Clams

NAME	STATUS
Higgins Eye (pearlymussel) <i>Lampsilis higginsii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5428">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5428</a>	Endangered
Sheepnose Mussel <i>Plethobasus cyphus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6903">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6903</a>	Endangered

## Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Mead's Milkweed <i>Asclepias meadii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8204">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8204</a>	Threatened

## Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office  
2661 Scott Tower Drive  
New Franken, WI 54229-9565  
Phone: (920) 866-1717 Fax: (920) 866-1710

In Reply Refer To:

November 05, 2019

Consultation Code: 03E17000-2019-TA-0589

Event Code: 03E17000-2020-E-00682

Project Name: WisDOT 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project

Subject: Verification letter for the 'WisDOT 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project' project under the January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions.

Dear Joel Brown:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on November 05, 2019 your effects determination for the 'WisDOT 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project' (the Action) using the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) key within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. This IPaC key assists users in determining whether a Federal action is consistent with the activities analyzed in the Service's January 5, 2016, Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO). The PBO addresses activities excepted from "take"<sup>[1]</sup> prohibitions applicable to the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based upon your IPaC submission, the Action is consistent with activities analyzed in the PBO. The Action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take that may occur as a result of the Action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Unless the Service advises you within 30 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that the PBO satisfies and concludes your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) with respect to the northern long-eared bat.

Please report to our office any changes to the information about the Action that you submitted in IPaC, the results of any bat surveys conducted in the Action area, and any dead, injured, or sick northern long-eared bats that are found during Action implementation. If the Action is not completed within one year of the date of this letter, you must update and resubmit the information required in the IPaC key.

This IPaC-assisted determination allows you to rely on the PBO for compliance with ESA Section 7(a)(2) only for the northern long-eared bat. It **does not** apply to the following ESA-protected species that also may occur in the Action area:

- Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake), *Sistrurus catenatus* (Threatened)
- Higgins Eye (pearlymussel), *Lampsilis higginsii* (Endangered)
- Mead's Milkweed, *Asclepias meadii* (Threatened)
- Sheepnose Mussel, *Plethobasus cyphus* (Endangered)
- Whooping Crane, *Grus americana* (Experimental Population, Non-Essential)

If the Action may affect other federally listed species besides the northern long-eared bat, a proposed species, and/or designated critical habitat, additional consultation between you and this Service office is required. If the Action may disturb bald or golden eagles, additional coordination with the Service under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is recommended.

---

[1]Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct [ESA Section 3(19)].

## **Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### **1. Name**

WisDOT 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project

### **2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'WisDOT 1010-10-01 I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project':

The project is focused on the I 39/90/94 crossing of the Wisconsin River in Columbia County, and extends approximately 1.6 miles to the north and approximately 1.9 miles to the south. The southern terminus for the project is Black Road. The northern terminus for the project is the end of the southbound taper from the I 90/94 & I 39/WIS 78 interchange. The I-39/90/94 crossing of the Wisconsin River consists of two structures. However, the structures are collectively referred to as the Wisconsin River Bridge.

The purpose of the project is address the needs of the aging I-39/90/94 structures and maintain vehicular traffic across the Wisconsin River in the towns of Dekorra and Caledonia located in Columbia County.

The bridge is inspected every two years to assess the condition of each bridge element. Inspectors assign multiple condition ratings to each bridge element. A portion of the bridge elements were given a rating of poor or severe.

The Wisconsin River Bridge has been repaired seven times since it was constructed in 1961. The past repairs have served as solutions to preserve and extend the service life of the bridge. However even with the past repair work, deficiencies remain with the existing bridge due to the nature of how bridge elements deteriorate over time.

Construction is anticipated for the mid-2020's, dependent on funding.

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.45080235847964N89.49647857477623W>



### **Determination Key Result**

This Federal Action may affect the northern long-eared bat in a manner consistent with the description of activities addressed by the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016. Any taking that may occur incidental to this Action is not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule at 50 CFR §17.40(o). Therefore, the PBO satisfies your responsibilities for this Action under ESA Section 7(a)(2) relative to the northern long-eared bat.

### **Determination Key Description: Northern Long-eared Bat 4(d) Rule**

This key was last updated in IPaC on May 15, 2017. Keys are subject to periodic revision.

This key is intended for actions that may affect the threatened northern long-eared bat.

The purpose of the key for Federal actions is to assist determinations as to whether proposed actions are consistent with those analyzed in the Service's PBO dated January 5, 2016.

Federal actions that may cause prohibited take of northern long-eared bats, affect ESA-listed species other than the northern long-eared bat, or affect any designated critical habitat, require ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation in addition to the use of this key. Federal actions that may affect species proposed for listing or critical habitat proposed for designation may require a conference under ESA Section 7(a)(4).



## Determination Key Result

This project may affect the threatened Northern long-eared bat; therefore, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is required. However, based on the information you provided, this project may rely on the Service's January 5, 2016, *Programmatic Biological Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions* to fulfill its Section 7(a)(2) consultation obligation.

## Qualification Interview

1. Is the action authorized, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency?  
Yes
2. Have you determined that the proposed action will have “no effect” on the northern long-eared bat? (If you are unsure select "No")  
No
3. Will your activity purposefully **Take** northern long-eared bats?  
No
4. Is the project action area located wholly outside the White-nose Syndrome Zone?  
**Automatically answered**  
No
5. Have you contacted the appropriate agency to determine if your project is near a known hibernaculum or maternity roost tree?

Location information for northern long-eared bat hibernacula is generally kept in state Natural Heritage Inventory databases – the availability of this data varies state-by-state. Many states provide online access to their data, either directly by providing maps or by providing the opportunity to make a data request. In some cases, to protect those resources, access to the information may be limited. A web page with links to state Natural Heritage Inventory databases is available at [www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/nhsites.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/nhsites.html).

Yes

6. Will the action affect a cave or mine where northern long-eared bats are known to hibernate (i.e., hibernaculum) or could it alter the entrance or the environment (physical or other alteration) of a hibernaculum?  
No

7. Will the action involve Tree Removal?

*Yes*

8. Will the action only remove hazardous trees for the protection of human life or property?

*No*

9. Will the action remove trees within 0.25 miles of a known northern long-eared bat hibernaculum at any time of year?

*No*

10. Will the action remove a known occupied northern long-eared bat maternity roost tree or any trees within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree from June 1 through July 31?

*No*

## Project Questionnaire

**If the project includes forest conversion, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 1-3.**

1. Estimated total acres of forest conversion:

0

2. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from April 1 to October 31

0

3. If known, estimated acres of forest conversion from June 1 to July 31

0

**If the project includes timber harvest, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 4-6.**

4. Estimated total acres of timber harvest

0

5. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from April 1 to October 31

0

6. If known, estimated acres of timber harvest from June 1 to July 31

0

**If the project includes prescribed fire, report the appropriate acreages below. Otherwise, type '0' in questions 7-9.**

7. Estimated total acres of prescribed fire

0

8. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from April 1 to October 31

0

9. If known, estimated acres of prescribed fire from June 1 to July 31

0

**If the project includes new wind turbines, report the megawatts of wind capacity below. Otherwise, type '0' in question 10.**

10. What is the estimated wind capacity (in megawatts) of the new turbine(s)?  
0

## Dredske, Logan

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**From:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 08, 2020 9:55 AM  
**To:** Schulze, Ashley  
**Cc:** Dredske, Logan; Lamers, Brandon - DOT; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: FW: WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

FYI – no comments from USFWS

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**From:** Utrup, Nick J <nick\_utrup@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 08, 2020 9:52 AM  
**To:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov>  
**Cc:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

Hi Daniel,

Thanks for sending this to me. I believe we provided consultation regarding threatened and endangered species. Other than that, we don't have any further comments.

Nick

Nick Utrup  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4101 American Boulevard East  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Office: (952) 252-0092 ext. 204

Email: [Nick.Utrup@fws.gov](mailto:Nick.Utrup@fws.gov)

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**From:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:52 PM  
**To:** Utrup, Nick J <[nick\\_utrup@fws.gov](mailto:nick_utrup@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good afternoon Nick,

Just a friendly reminder that the comment period for the Wisconsin River Bridge Environmental Assessment is scheduled to end this Saturday, December 12th.

We would appreciate any comments that your agency has.

Thank you,

**Daniel Schave, P.E.**

Project Manager – Major Studies

WisDOT – Southwest region

(608) 246-3251 office

(608) 716-1585 cell

---

**From:** Schave, Daniel L - DOT

**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 7:55 AM

**To:** DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>; Schave, Daniel L - DOT <[Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schave@dot.wi.gov)>

**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Billmeyer, Jess <[jess.billmeyer@aecom.com](mailto:jess.billmeyer@aecom.com)>; Schulze, Ashley <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>

**Subject:** WisDOT ID 1010-10-01; I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge; Notice of Opportunity to Request a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment

Hello,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is providing notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment and notice of opportunity to request a public hearing for a proposed improvement on Interstate 39/90/94 in Columbia County, Wisconsin.

The proposed improvement includes:

- Replacement of the existing Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River bridge with a new bridge that would accommodate construction staging, future maintenance work and future traffic needs
- Replacement of the County U and County V bridges over Interstate 39/90/94
- Construction of retaining walls to avoid impacts to transmission structures

There will be no relocation of persons or businesses as a result of the proposed improvement.

An online copy of the Environmental Assessment can be viewed at the following:

<https://wisconsin.dot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/i399094-bridge/default.aspx>

A public hearing may be requested by individuals to whom the proposed project is of significant concern. If you feel the project is of significant concern, I encourage you to contact me to discuss those concerns prior to requesting a public hearing.

The attached PDF contains additional details of the Environmental Assessment availability as well as the opportunity to request a public hearing.

Please reach out if you have comments or questions related to the proposed improvement.

Sincerely,

***Daniel Schave, P.E.***

Project Manager – Major Studies  
WisDOT – Southwest region  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704  
*(608) 246-3251 office*  
*(608) 716-1585 cell*

**Appendix 7:**  
**United States Coast Guard Coordination**



**From:** [Schulze, Ashley](#)  
**To:** [Dredske, Logan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WisDOT Project ID 1010-10-01, IH 39/90/94, Wisconsin River Bridges B-11-22/23 & Approaches, Columbia County Submittal  
**Date:** Monday, October 29, 2018 10:44:07 AM

---

**From:** Stanifer, William B CIV [mailto:William.B.Stanifer@uscg.mil]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:11 AM  
**To:** Knorr, Robert - DOT  
**Cc:** Brown, Joel R - DOT; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT; Schulze, Ashley; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges; Balice, Joe; Holt, Daniel  
**Subject:** RE: WisDOT Project ID 1010-10-01, IH 39/90/94, Wisconsin River Bridges B-11-22/23 & Approaches, Columbia County Submittal

Good Morning Robert,

Not sure what happened here. I went back through what I've received from WisDOT and evidently never received this request or it ended up in my spam inbox. We do have severe restrictions on attachment size, max out around 2MB, and I'm beginning to suspect I never received this for that reason.

The Wisconsin River is considered navigable by the USCG. However, your project crosses at a location where we have suspended our jurisdiction as it pertains to our bridge permitting authorities. No USCG permit would be required. No coordination during removal or construction activities would be necessary.

If you need something more official than this email please let me know. I can generate a letter and get that over to you ASAP. If you have any other questions or concerns please let me know.

Blair Stanifer  
Bridge Management Specialist  
Ninth Coast Guard District  
(216) 902-6086  
Fax: (216) 902-6088

---

**From:** Knorr, Robert - DOT <Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:53 AM  
**To:** Stanifer, William B CIV <William.B.Stanifer@uscg.mil>  
**Cc:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>; Balice, Joe <joe.balice@dot.gov>; Holt, Daniel <daniel.holt@dot.gov>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: WisDOT Project ID 1010-10-01, IH 39/90/94, Wisconsin River Bridges B-11-22/23 & Approaches, Columbia County Submittal

Good morning Mr. Stanfier,

This email is a follow-up to the previously sent correspondence referenced below from August 20<sup>th</sup>. We are interested if you have any comments regarding this bridge replacement project and if you've had a chance to review and determine if the project impacts a waterway under Coast Guard jurisdiction for bridge administration purposes. Thank you in advance for your timely response.

***Robert Knorr, P.E.***

*Project Manager – Major Studies Unit*

*WisDOT Southwest Region*

[2101 Wright St.](#)

[Madison, WI 53704-2583](#)

[Office: \(608\) 246-5444](#)

[robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov)

---

**From:** Knorr, Robert - DOT

**Sent:** Monday, August 20, 2018 6:30 PM

**To:** 'william.b.stanifer@uscg.mil' <[william.b.stanifer@uscg.mil](mailto:william.b.stanifer@uscg.mil)>

**Cc:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT

<[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; 'Schulze, Ashley' <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <[DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov)>

**Subject:** WisDOT Project ID 1010-10-01, IH 39/90/94, Wisconsin River Bridges B-11-22/23 & Approaches, Columbia County Submittal

Dear Mr. Stanifer,

Please review and determine if the bridge replacement project in Columbia County, Wisconsin impacts a waterway under Coast Guard jurisdiction for bridge administration purposes.

Name of Waterways: Wisconsin River & Un-named Tributary south of bridges

Section 12, Town 11 North, Range 8 East; (Map Attached)

Proposed Structure: unknown

Also attached is a .kmz file to import and view the project location using Google Earth.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information for this request for Coast Guard agency coordination.

This request is being made to fulfill federal NEPA environmental document coordination commitments, which is planned for approval in 2020.

Your timely response is appreciated,

**Robert Knorr, P.E.**

*Project Manager – Major Studies Unit*

*WisDOT Southwest Region*

*2101 Wright St.*

*Madison, WI 53704-2583*

*Office: (608) 246-5444*

*robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov*

**Appendix 8:**  
**Environmental Protection Agency Coordination**  
**Updated: 8-4 thru 8-5**



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

APR 03 2019

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Ian Chidister  
Federal Highway Administration – Wisconsin Division  
525 Junction Road, Suite 8000  
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-2157

**Re: Purpose and Need for the Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project,  
Columbia County, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Chidister:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced purpose and need document, which was produced by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). We undertook this review pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The proposed project involves replacement of the existing the Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge, which is 58 years old. Based on the information provided in the purpose and need document, we concur with the proposed purpose and need. We look forward to the forthcoming alternatives selection document, at which point, we will provide detailed scoping comments.

We are available to discuss our comments on the purpose and need document at your convenience. Please feel free to contact Mike Sedlacek of my staff at 312-886-1765, or by email at [sedlacek.michael@epa.gov](mailto:sedlacek.michael@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake".

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief  
NEPA Implementation Section  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Rob Knorr, Wisconsin Department of Transportation



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JAN 10 2020

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

RM-19J

Ian Chidister  
Federal Highway Administration – Wisconsin Division  
525 Junction Road, Suite 8000  
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-2157

**Re: Alternatives Selection for the Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project,  
Columbia County, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Chidister:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced alternatives selection document, which was produced by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). We undertook this review pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and as a cooperating agency in the NEPA-Clean Water Act Section 404 Merger Process (NEPA/404).

The proposed project involves replacement or rehabilitation of the existing Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge (bridge), which is 58 years old. Four alternatives have been provided in the alternatives selection document:

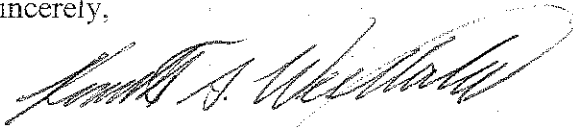
- No-Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative consists of doing nothing to address the aging bridge. No repair, maintenance, or construction activities of any sort would occur on the bridge. Eventually, the bridge would need to be closed due to safety concerns.
- Rehabilitation Alternative. The Rehabilitation Alternative represents phases of rehabilitation work that would be completed on the existing bridge to prolong its life. This alternative would feature three phases of rehabilitation work that would extend the life of the bridge to approximately the year 2045. In 2045, the bridge would then require complete replacement.
- East Alternative. The East Alternative includes a complete replacement of the existing bridge. The existing bridge would be replaced by two new bridges, the first of which would be located just east of the existing bridge. The second bridge would be constructed where the existing bridge is located, after portions of the existing bridge are removed. I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would be shifted to the east to align the roadway to the new bridges. The bridges would consist of three 12-foot lanes in each direction. The shift of the I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would require the replacement of the County U and County V bridges over I-39/90/94.

- West Alternative. The West Alternative includes a complete replacement of the existing bridge. The existing bridge would be replaced by two new bridges, the first of which would be located just west of the existing bridge. The second bridge would be constructed where the existing bridge is located. The bridges would consist of three 12-foot lanes in each direction. The shift of the I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would require the replacement of the County U and County V bridges over I-39/90/94.

Based on the information provided in the alternatives selection document, we concur with the decision to drop the Rehabilitation Alternative from further analyses because this alternative does not adequately address future transportation needs. We also concur with the decision to advance the No-Build, West, and East Alternatives for further evaluation. We will provide detailed comments on this proposed project after we review the forthcoming preferred alternative selection. We do note, however, that the East Alternative (as proposed) has fewer environmental impacts and requires fewer residential and commercial relocations. We request FHWA and WisDOT consider those reduced impacts when selecting a preferred alternative.

We are available to discuss our comments on the alternatives selection document at your convenience. Please feel free to contact Mike Sedlacek of my staff at 312-886-1765, or by email at [sedlacek.michael@epa.gov](mailto:sedlacek.michael@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake  
Deputy Director, Tribal and Multimedia Programs Office  
Office of the Regional Administrator

cc: Jenny Grimes, Wisconsin Department of Transportation



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

December 1, 2020

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
Mail Code RM-19J

Ian Chidister  
Federal Highway Administration – Wisconsin Division  
525 Junction Road, Suite 8000  
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-2157

**Re: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project, Columbia County, Wisconsin**

Dear Mr. Chidister:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA), which was produced by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). We undertook this review pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and as a cooperating agency in the NEPA-Clean Water Act Section 404 Merger Process (NEPA/404).

The proposed project involves replacement of the existing Interstate 39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge (bridge), which is 58 years old. Three alternatives have been provided in the DEA:

- No-Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative consists of doing nothing to address the aging bridge. No repair, maintenance, or construction activities of any sort would occur on the bridge. Eventually, the bridge would need to be closed due to safety concerns;
- East Alternative. The East Alternative includes a complete replacement of the existing bridge. The existing bridge would be replaced by two new bridges, the first of which would be located just east of the existing bridge. The second bridge would be constructed where the existing bridge is located, after portions of the existing bridge are removed. I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would be shifted to the east to align the roadway to the new bridges. The bridges would consist of three 12-foot lanes in each direction. The shift of the I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would require the replacement of the County U and County V bridges over I-39/90/94; and
- West Alternative. The West Alternative includes a complete replacement of the existing bridge. The existing bridge would be replaced by two new bridges, the first of which would be located just west of the existing bridge. The second bridge would be constructed where the existing bridge is located. The bridges would consist of three 12-foot lanes in each direction. The shift of the I-39/90/94 roadway mainlines would require the replacement of the County U and County V bridges over I-39/90/94.



FHWA and WisDOT have selected the East Alternative as the preferred alternative for this project. As a cooperating agency in the NEPA/404 Merger Process, EPA provided concurrence on purpose and need (April 3, 2019), and alternatives to be carried forward (January 10, 2020). We appreciate FHWA and WisDOT identifying and addressing previous comments relating to avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures for wetlands and streams, air quality, erosion control, and historical and cultural resources. Based on our review of the DEA, we have no further comments.

Please send us a copy of the Final EA (FEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documents, when available. We are available to discuss our comments on the DEA at your convenience. Please feel free to contact Mike Sedlacek of my staff at 312-886-1765, or by email at [sedlacek.michael@epa.gov](mailto:sedlacek.michael@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake  
Deputy Director, Tribal and Multimedia Programs Office  
Office of the Regional Administrator

cc: Dan Schave, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

**Appendix 9:**  
**Bureau of Land Management Coordination**

**From:** [Schulze, Ashley](#)  
**To:** [Dredske, Logan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, BLM-WisDOT call on Wisconsin River Bridges  
**Date:** Monday, December 23, 2019 5:05:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [mediacenter\\_blmpolicymanual8150.pdf](#)

---

**From:** Carman, Stephanie <scarman@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 3:13 PM  
**To:** Knorr, Robert - DOT <Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov>  
**Cc:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; kfrauen@blm.gov; Gettinger, Dean <dgettinger@blm.gov>; r35ander@blm.gov  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, BLM-WisDOT call on Wisconsin River Bridges

Thank you for the call today, I think we're in a good place moving forward with this project. As I said, we'll need a formal request (basically, a letter asking approval to survey and complete field work) to authorize work, including the following items. Please also include any information you have regarding your work with other authorizing agencies, such as consultations with USFWS, SHPO or tribes. In addition to using this info to authorize the pending field work, it will also help us as we work towards a ROW and the associated NEPA. We would like to be able to tier to the NEPA completed for your project as much as possible for our ROW process, so appreciate being involved throughout.

From the BLM 8150 Manual Permitting Uses of Cultural Resources (additions to include wildlife surveys, full manual attached) - information we require to provide authorization of

- Name and address of lead permittee (who will be our primary contact)
- Name and address of additional permittees, including organization applying, PI, Crew Chief, etc.
- Qualifications of organization, PI, Crew Chief, etc. (for agencies, Mission statement should work, CVs for lead staff)
- Purpose and description of cultural resource work, including description of methodologies
- Purpose and description of wildlife resource work, including description of methodologies
- Specific location of work, referencing the BLM parcel numbers
- Identification of specific cultural/wildlife resource(s) involved
- Anticipated start and end dates
- Name of approved curatorial facility where collections and records shall be deposited upon completion of authorized work
- Summary of communications with other permitting agencies, including USFWS and SHPO

If you have any questions, or want to discuss any of the above information, please give me a call. After we receive your form request, we will try to turn around an authorization as soon as we can.

Stephanie

**Stephanie Carman**  
**Assistant District Manager for Resources**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 9:09 AM, Carman, Stephanie <[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)> wrote:

Thank you Robert. This is very helpful. What we would like to go over during the call:

- the status of the island ownership determinations (attached is a quick map)
- the authorizations and approvals we need to complete prior to work commencing and federal nexus
- potential for becoming a cooperator on the EA
- Right of Ways which may be needed in the future.

**Stephanie Carman**  
**Assistant District Manager for Resources**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 8:58 AM, Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Stephanie,

I've attached a display of the field investigation limits that we'll be discussing in our teleconference at 1 today. There will be 3 separate phone calls coming in, WisDOT, AECOM (Lead Consultant) and UW-Milwaukee (Arch / Hist field investigation). Thank you.

*Robert Knorr*

**From:** Carman, Stephanie [mailto:[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 23, 2018 1:09 PM  
**To:** Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Schulze, Ashley <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>; [kfrauen@blm.gov](mailto:kfrauen@blm.gov); Gettinger, Dean <[dgettinger@blm.gov](mailto:dgettinger@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, Initial project notification letter

Hi Robert -

We have taken a look at the information that you provided and there are about 9 islands in the area, 2-4 in the immediate area, which are presumed currently to be managed by the BLM. We have been undertaking a process to confirm ownership/management of all presumed-federal islands in Wisconsin, and have moved those in your project area to the top of the list for status determination. It will take a few weeks to months for the determinations to be complete.

We would like to further discuss with you your use of the islands and the surveys to be completed. If these are determined to be federal lands, there is a permitting process necessary for a right of way and approvals are needed for the surveys. Can we please set up a meeting with the appropriate people on your staff to discuss prior to the initiation of work?

Thank you,  
Stephanie

**Stephanie Carman**  
**Assistant District Manager for Resources**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Tue, Aug 21, 2018 at 8:11 AM, Gettinger, Dean <[dgettinger@blm.gov](mailto:dgettinger@blm.gov)> wrote:

Not sure if we have anything in the area or not.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Knorr, Robert - DOT** <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 5:54 PM  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridges, Env, Initial project notification letter  
To: "[dgettinger@blm.gov](mailto:dgettinger@blm.gov)" <[dgettinger@blm.gov](mailto:dgettinger@blm.gov)>  
Cc: "Brown, Joel R - DOT" <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>, "Grimes, Jennifer - DOT" <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>, "Schulze, Ashley" <[Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com](mailto:Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com)>, "[kfrauen@blm.gov](mailto:kfrauen@blm.gov)" <[kfrauen@blm.gov](mailto:kfrauen@blm.gov)>

Dean,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have started to evaluate the future replacement of the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridges in Columbia County near Portage, Wisconsin. I've attached a letter concerning the details and a project location map for your reference. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

**Robert Knorr, P.E.**

*Project Manager – Major Studies Unit*

*WisDOT Southwest Region*

*2101 Wright St.*

*Madison, WI 53704-2583*

*Office: [\(608\) 246-5444](tel:6082465444)*

*[robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov)*

--

Dean Gettinger

District Manager

Northeastern States District

626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 297-4402



# United States Department of the Interior

**Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States  
Northeastern States District  
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4617**



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
(8151-03300)

September 13, 2018

Mr. Robert Knorr, P.E.  
WisDOT Project Manager  
Southwest Region  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Mr. Knorr,

Thank you for reaching out to us regarding the project to evaluate the replacement of the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridges. Your letter dated September 11, 2018 requested approval to access the Wisconsin River islands managed by the BLM, listed below, for natural and cultural resources surveys beginning in the fall of 2018 and continuing through summer of 2020. We approve your request for access, from September 14, 2018 – September 15, 2020, as described in your letter enclosed here, with the following stipulations and conditions:

- Access is provided for the following islands, purposes and time frames:
  - Wisconsin River Island 021-013 – Raptor surveys, Spring and Summer 2019
  - Wisconsin River Island 021-014 – Wetland delineation, Fall 2018; Archaeological investigations, Fall 2018; Raptor surveys, Spring and Summer 2019; Threatened and Endangered species surveys, Summer 2019; Soil surveys, Summer 2020
  - Wisconsin River Island 021-015 – Wetland delineation, Fall 2018; Archaeological investigations, Fall 2018; Raptor surveys, Spring and Summer 2019; Threatened and Endangered species surveys, Summer 2019; Soil surveys, Summer 2020
  - Wisconsin River Island 021-016 – Raptor surveys, Spring and Summer 2019
- Access is approved for the Wisconsin Department of Transport (WisDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as well as the following contractors/permittees:
  - Quest Civil Engineers for wetland delineation and threatened and endangered species surveys
  - University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee for archaeological investigations
  - Raptor Services for raptor surveys
- All work shall be undertaken consistent with the Land Use and Resource Protection Conditions attached.
- All work will be completed with the appropriate permits and coordination which may be needed from other agencies, such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the State Historic Preservation Office.
- All appropriate safety measures will be utilized and any incidents immediately reported to the BLM-Northeastern States District Office.
- All cultural/archaeological surveys will include the attached administrative conditions.
- Quarterly reports should be submitted to the BLM-Northeastern States District Office with updates on surveys completed that quarter, as well as copies of any intermediate or final reports on the surveys.

- Any changes in methodology or timing will be provided to the BLM-Northeastern States District prior to undertaking surveys.

We look forward to working with you on this project. Please continue to keep us involved during this investigative phase and especially as you begin the Environmental Assessment. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Carman, Assistant District Manager for Resources, at (414) 297-4450 or [scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov).

Sincerely,



Randall C. Anderson  
Associate District Manager

Cc: Anna Varney, FHWA  
Joel Brown, WisDOT  
Jennifer Grimes, WisDOT  
Ashley Schulze, AECOM

Enclosed: Administrative Conditions for Cultural/Archeological Investigations; Project Description and Access Request from WisDOT to BLM-Northeastern States District Office dated September 11, 2018



### **Land Use and Resource Protection Conditions**

1. Permittee shall observe all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations applicable to the public lands and resources, whether or not stipulated in the permit conditions.
2. Permittee shall allow the State Director and authorized officer or their representatives full access to the work area specified in this permit at any time the permittee is in the field, for purposes of examining the work area and any recovered materials and related records.
3. Permittee shall cease work upon discovering any human remains and associated funerary objects, and shall immediately notify the authorized officer. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until the authorized officer has given permission.
4. Permittee shall backfill all subsurface test exposures and excavation units as soon as possible after recording the results, and shall restore them as closely as reasonable to the original contour.
5. Permittee shall take precautions to protect livestock, wildlife, the public, or other users of the public lands from accidental injury in any excavation unit.
6. Permittee shall not conduct any flint knapping or lithic replication experiments at any archaeological site, aboriginal quarry source, or non-site location that might be mistaken for an archaeological site as a result of such experiments.
7. Permittee shall perform the field work authorized in this permit in a way that does not impede or interfere with other legitimate uses of the public lands, except when the authorized officer specifically provides otherwise.
8. Permittee shall restrict vehicular activity to existing roads and trails unless the authorized officer provides otherwise.
9. Permittee shall keep disturbance to the minimum area consistent with the nature and purpose of the field work.
10. Permittee shall not cut or otherwise damage living trees unless the authorized officer gives permission.
11. Permittee shall take precaution at all times to prevent wildfire. Permittee shall be held responsible for suppression costs for any fires on public lands caused by the permittee's negligence. Permittee may not burn debris without the authorized officer's specific permission.
12. Permittee shall not disturb resource management facilities within the permit area, such as fences, reservoirs, and other improvements, without the authorized officer's approval. Where disturbance is necessary, permittee shall return the facility to its prior condition, as determined by the authorized officer.
13. Permittee shall remove temporary stakes and/or flagging, which the permittee has installed, upon completion of field work. Permittee shall clean all camp and work areas before leaving the permit area.
14. Permittee shall take precautions to prevent littering or pollution on public lands, waterways, and adjoining properties. Refuse shall be carried out and deposited in approved disposal areas.

## **BLM Standard Administrative Conditions for Cultural Resource Permits, per BLM Manual Section 8150**

1. This permit is subject to all applicable provisions of pertinent regulations (43 CFR 2920; 43 CFR 3; 43 CFR 7), and policies and procedures (BLM Manual Section 8150), which are made a part hereof.
2. This permit may not be assigned.
3. Permittee shall immediately request that the State Director make a modification to accommodate any change in an essential condition of the permit, and shall without delay notify the State Director of any other changes affecting the permit or regarding information submitted as part of the application for the permit. Failure to do so may result in permit suspension or revocation or criminal charges.
4. This permit is issued for the term specified in the letter dated September 13, 2018, from the BLM-Northeastern States District to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. It is subject to suspension or revocation, for management purposes or for cause, at the discretion of the State Director, upon written notice.
5. Permittee may request permit extension, in writing, at any time prior to expiration of the term of the permit, specifying a limited, definite amount of time required to complete permitted work.
6. Any correspondence about this permit or work conducted under its authority must cite the permit number. Any publication of results of work conducted under the authority of this permit must cite the Bureau of Land Management and the permit number.
7. Special conditions attached to this permit are made a part hereof.
8. Permittee shall contact the affected Field Office manager prior to beginning any field work under the authority of this permit by submitting a fieldwork authorization request except when a specific fieldwork authorization is included with the permit.
9. Permittee's initiation of work or other activities under the authority of this permit signifies the permittee's acceptance of the terms and conditions of the permit.
10. Permittee may request a review, in writing to the official concerned, of any disputed decision regarding inclusion of specific terms and conditions in this permit or any fieldwork authorization, denial of a fieldwork authorization request, or modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit, setting out reasons for believing that the decision should be reconsidered.
11. Permittee shall not be released from requirements of this permit until all outstanding obligations have been satisfied, whether or not the term of the permit has expired. Permittee may be subject to civil penalties for violation of any term or condition of this permit.
12. Permittee shall use State Director-approved GPS technology to record all location data for field work authorized in this permit.
13. Permittee shall submit a preliminary report to the authorized officer within 10 days of completion of any episode of field work, setting out what was done, how it was done, by whom, specifically where, and with what results, including maps, GPS data, an approved site form for each newly recorded cultural property, a BLM evaluation form for each cultural property examined, and the permittee's professional recommendations, as results require. Depending on the scope, duration, and nature of the work, the authorized officer may require progress reports, during or after the fieldwork period or both.
14. Permittee shall submit a final report to each the authorized officer and the State Director not later than 180 days after completion of field work. Where a fieldwork episode involved only minor work and/or minor findings, a final report may be submitted in place of the preliminary report.
15. Permittee shall deposit all artifacts, samples and collections, as applicable, and copies of all records, data, photographs, and other documents, resulting from work conducted under this permit, with the curatorial facility (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), above, not later than 90 days after the date the final report is submitted to the State Director. Not later than 180 days after the final report is submitted, permittee shall provide the State Director with a catalog and evaluation of all materials deposited with the curatorial facility, including the facility's accession and/or catalog numbers.

**From:** [Schulze, Ashley](#)  
**To:** [Dredske, Logan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, BLM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 4:39:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Map for Islands near DOT Bridge Project.pdf](#)

---

**From:** Carman, Stephanie [mailto:[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 4:13 PM  
**To:** Knorr, Robert - DOT  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA); Balice, Joe; Brown, Joel R - DOT; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT; Billmeyer, Jess; Schulze, Ashley; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges; Katherine (Katie) Frauen  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Purpose & Need Summary, BLM

Hi Robert -

I wanted to provide you and your team with a quick update on our progress in determining the Federal interest in the islands near the bridge projects. As shown on the attached map, we can affirm that islands 021-013 and 021-014 are Federal and that islands 021-015 and 021 -016 are not Federal, and thus the BLM would have no interest/authority on islands 021-015 and 021-016. We are still awaiting determinations on islands 021-017 and 021 -018. Once we have a final determination for the project area, we will send you an official notification.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Stephanie

**Stephanie Carman**  
**Assistant District Manager for Resources**  
Bureau of Land Management  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Fri, Mar 15, 2019 at 10:07 AM Carman, Stephanie <[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)> wrote:

Thank you Robert. We will review the documents and get back to you.

Stephanie

**Stephanie Carman**  
**Assistant District Manager for Resources**  
Bureau of Land Management  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 5:08 PM Knorr, Robert - DOT <[Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov)> wrote:

Stephanie,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration have prepared a summary of the Purpose and Need Statement for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Attached please find the project's purpose and need summary and a letter requesting your agency's review and comment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

***Robert Knorr, P.E.***

*Project Manager – Major Studies Unit*

*WisDOT Southwest Region*

*2101 Wright St.*

*Madison, WI 53704-2583*

*(608) 246-5444*

*[robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov](mailto:robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov)*



**From:** [Schulze, Ashley](#)  
**To:** [Dredske, Logan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, BLM  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 18, 2019 9:18:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Map for Islands near DOT Bridge Project - Dec 2019 update.pdf](#)

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**From:** Carman, Stephanie <scarman@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 11:15 AM  
**To:** Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>  
**Cc:** Chidister, Ian (FHWA) <ian.chidister@dot.gov>; Balice, Joe <joe.balice@dot.gov>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Schulze, Ashley <Ashley.Schulze@aecom.com>; Billmeyer, Jess <Jess.Billmeyer@aecom.com>; DOT I 39-90-94 WI River Bridges <DOTI39-90-94WIRiverBridges@dot.wi.gov>; Filkins, Susan <sfilkins@blm.gov>; Knorr, Robert - DOT <Robert.Knorr@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 1010-10-01, WI River Bridge, Alternative Evaluation Summary Report, BLM

Thank you Jennifer. Our team will start looking at the documents and get you any comments by January 24th - Susan Filkins, our acting Assistant District Manager for Resources, will be your primary contact.

Also, I wanted to update you, and including Rober Knorr on this too, that we have completed our determination of the federal interest in the islands. We will include the Land Status Determinations and official transmission of this information with our comments, but if you want more information now, please let me know.

As shown on the attached map:

021-013 Federal  
021-014 Federal  
021-015 Non Federal  
021-016 Non-Federal  
021-017 Federal  
021-018 Federal

Thank you,

**Stephanie Carman**  
Associate District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Northeastern States District  
[scarman@blm.gov](mailto:scarman@blm.gov)  
office: (414) 297-4450  
cell: (414) 391-9721

On Mon, Dec 9, 2019 at 5:25 PM Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)> wrote:

Stephanie,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have prepared a summary of the alternative evaluation process for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Attached please find the Alternative Evaluation Summary Report which details the process on how WisDOT identified a recommended alternative and a letter requesting your agency's review and comment.

At this time, we are seeking your agency's comments on the range of alternatives, alternatives evaluation, and the WisDOT recommended alternative. We ask that you provide any written comments by Friday, January 24, 2020.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Jennifer Grimes

Environmental Coordinator

Mega Team Projects & Planning Major Studies

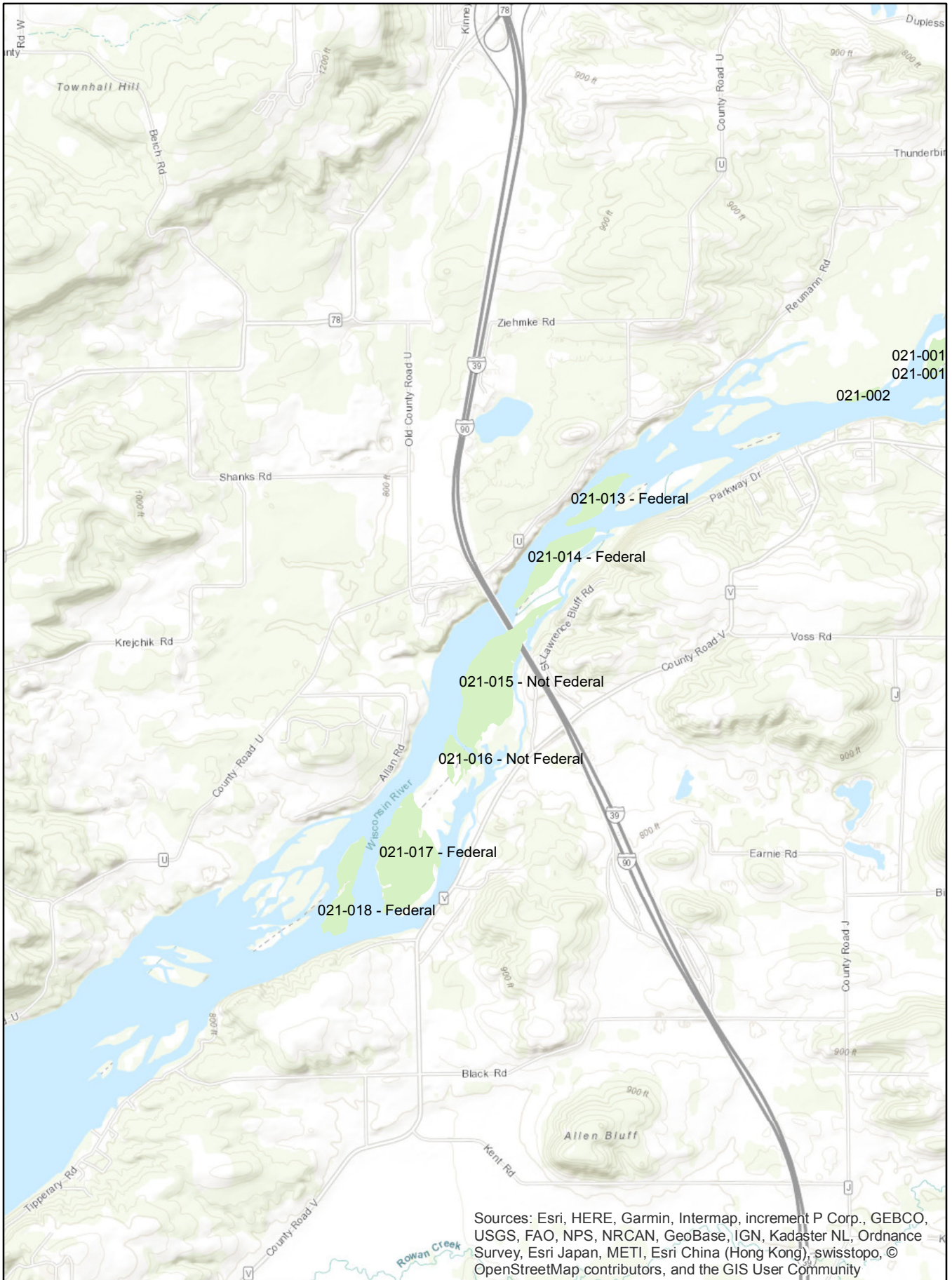
WisDOT Southwest Region – Edgerton

111 Interstate Blvd, Edgerton, WI 53534

 Phone 608.516.9760

 [jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:jennifer.grimes@dot.wi.gov)

# Islands Impacted by DOT Bridge - Updated December 10, 2019







## United States Department of the Interior

**Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States  
Northeastern States District  
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4617**



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1610-03300

January 23, 2020

Ms. Jennifer Grimes  
Environmental Coordinator  
WisDOT Southwest Region - Edgerton  
111 Interstate Boulevard  
Edgerton, Wisconsin 53534

Dear Ms. Grimes:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Alternative Evaluation Summary Report for the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River Bridge Project in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Our staff reviewed the report and did not have any comments on the project at this time.

The BLM looks forward to reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment when it becomes available later this year.

Thank you for your continued collaboration with the BLM on this important project.

Sincerely,

Dean Gettinger  
District Manager

Cc:  
Ian Chidister  
Environmental Program Manager  
FHWA-Wisconsin Division  
525 Junction Road, Suite 8000  
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-2157