



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation System Development

Utility Coordination Newsletter

FHWA's Utility Program New Point of Contact

Josh Pachniak, P.E., joined the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a Project and Program Development Transportation Engineer. He has been with FHWA for five months and works closely with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

Within utility coordination, Josh will be focusing on topics of interest to FHWA. A couple of these topics include verifying that utility relocation timelines are realistic and improving the utility coordination process for the Local Program.

An example of a WisDOT initiative that Josh is interested in is exploring a utility coordination time chart, which is a joint effort between the BTS Utility Unit, Bureau of Project Development (BPD) and regions. Josh agrees a tool such as a utility coordination specific time chart could be very useful on more complicated, complex or involved projects. FHWA will focus more specifically on how utility relocation information is placed within the "Utilities" article of the special provisions; are they workable and realistic, and do the specials provide a clear picture of what the contractor is bidding.

Articles Included

- FHWA's Utility Program New Point of Contact
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For the Local Program, Josh's goal is to expand available options to assist local public agencies with their utility coordination efforts. This includes better defining the requirements for submitting utility coordination documents and completing utility relocations in order to keep project schedules on track.

Personally, he is pleased with what he sees from WisDOT's utility coordination efforts and feels that, as a group, WisDOT, FHWA, the utility industry, and consultants can always talk about ways to improve.

Josh is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin –

Platteville and worked as a consultant for ten years prior to joining FHWA. He gained a great deal of experience while at Strand Associates, Inc. working as a consultant lead utility coordinator on the Verona Road projects in Madison, WI. He led utility meetings, reviewed Trans 220 documentation and created conflict reports. From Verona Road, he became a "go to" resource for co-workers whenever utility coordination questions or concerns arose. This work led to a role as the consultant lead utility coordinator on the I-294 Tri-State Tollway project in Illinois for Strand's design portion of the corridor. Working in another state brought a different perspective to utility coordination. After Illinois, Josh coordinated and managed airport projects in Texas and Wisconsin, which allowed him to become proficient in Teams and Zoom before it was cool (i.e. before Covid-19 shut down all travel and in-person meetings).

UN #13-1

Utility Connections Webinar #1



Utility Connections

►Partnership ►People ►Process

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) hosted the first of a series of webinars themed "Strengthening partnerships, valuing people, and improving process to move WisDOT forward." The focus of the October 13th event was how vital partnerships are between WisDOT, the utility and road builders' industries. Joining WisDOT to deliver this message were representatives from Diggers Hotline, Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA), and Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association (WTBA).

Over 150 people joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams. Topics discussed included the following:

- **Steve Krebs (WisDOT)** provided an update on WisDOT's improvement program. In addition, he covered current utility initiatives, the Design-Build program, Standardized Bridge Projects, Good Faith Effort within the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, Engineering Estimates, and Local Program Low Risk Pilot projects.
- **Mike Meyer (Diggers Hotline)** covered the Compliance Review and Improvement Program.
- **Bill Esbeck (WSTA)** provided an overview of the broadband situation in Wisconsin, specifically as it relates to federal and state funding opportunities for facility owners.
- **Matt Grove (WTBA)** discussed the importance of communication and providing updates on the status of utility relocations so project schedules are not negatively impacted.

To view the webinar in its entirety, please click this link: [Utility Connections - Partnership, People, Process - YouTube](#)

The next webinar is scheduled for December 9, 2021. Bob Fasick, WisDOT Statewide ROW Permits Engineer will be discussing Utility Accommodation Updates and the Bureau of Technical Services Utility Unit will be talking about statewide utility coordination efforts. Safety will be the focus of the February session.

You will be receiving information in the near future to register for the next session. If you have any questions, please email:

DOTDTSDCUtilityCoordination@dot.wi.gov.

UN #13-2

Design-Build

In 2019, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) began the process of developing a design-build procurement program, as directed in [Wisconsin Statute 84.062](#). Since then, the Alternative Contracting Section (ACS) within the Bureau of Project Development (BPD) has been working to implement the Design-Build Program for WisDOT.

In 2021, this statute was updated with more details pertaining to the design-build process. WisDOT is currently required to procure up to six projects using the design-build method. Additionally, the legislation spelled out the types of design-build procurement that WisDOT must use. At least one project must use each of the following procurement methods:

- **Low-bid** requires the contract to be awarded to the proposer that submits the lowest price and has a responsive technical proposal that meets or exceeds the requirements specified by WisDOT.
- **Best value** assigns points to a technical proposal and a cost proposal. The contract will be awarded to the proposer with the best combined score on these two items.
- **Fixed-price-variable-scope** requires the contract to be awarded to the proposer that submits the lowest price (not to exceed a fixed price set by WisDOT) and the best qualitative scope of work.

The three projects currently in the WisDOT Design-Build Program include a pavement replacement project in the North Central Region on USH 45 (low bid), a structure replacement in the Southwest Region on STH 130 (best value), and a structure replacement on STH 125 in the Northeast Region (best value). More project details and anticipated schedules are posted on the [WisDOT Design-Build webpage](#).

US 45, County C to Gollnow Road, Shawano and Waupaca Counties, Design-Build Project

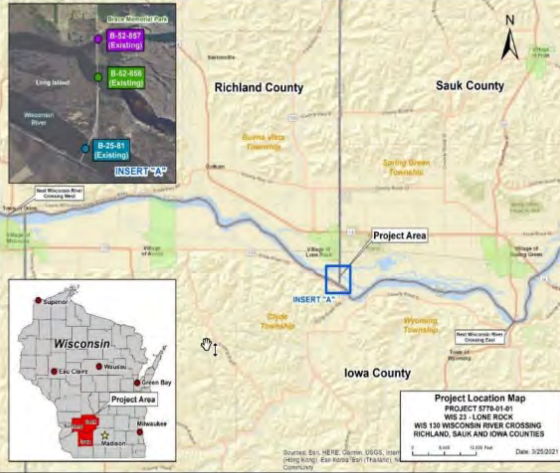


PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
RFP FISCAL YEAR	2022
PROJECT SCOPE	The proposed project includes pavement replacement of approximately 8 miles of deteriorating 4-lane divided asphalt pavement along US 45 from County C in Waupaca County just west of the city of Clintonville to approximately 400 feet south of Gollnow Road west of the city of Marion in Shawano County. The asphalt pavement design will be completed by WisDOT. Other proposed improvements include replacement of structural approach slabs at one structure, scour repairs at three culverts, repair or replacement of guardrail, removing curb and gutter along the center two-way-left-turn-lane (TWTL), along with spot median island upgrades, curb and gutter and inlet repairs.
A satellite map showing the project area. A red line highlights the route of US 45 from County C in Waupaca County to Gollnow Road in Shawano County. The map includes labels for Marion, E. Ramoth, Buckbee, and Clintonville. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 1600-15-70. A north arrow is located at the bottom right.	

The first WisDOT project to be procured under statute 84.062 began procurement in October with an advertisement for the Request For Qualifications (RFQ). This is the USH 45 pavement replacement project in Waupaca and Shawano counties. The other two projects are set to begin their procurement processes in the coming months.




**WIS 130, WIS 23 – Lone Rock, Wisconsin River Crossing,
Richland County, Design-Build Project 5770-01-02/71**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
RFP FISCAL YEAR	2022
PROJECT SCOPE	 <p>Address the deterioration of the WIS 130 structures crossing the Wisconsin River specifically, bridges/structures, B-25-0081, B-52-0856, and B-52-0857. Replace the three existing bridges with two structures located west of the current alignment.</p> <p>Avoid and/or minimize, to the greatest extent possible, any impacts to surrounding resources.</p>

For the North Central Region and Southwest Region projects, WisDOT anticipates completing utility coordination before the projects' Request For Proposals (RFP) are advertised. These two projects have construction impacts that are fairly easy to define and do not impact large numbers of utility owners.



**WIS 125, I-41 – Bluemound Dr, Outagamie County Town
of Grand Chute, Design-Build Project 6526-00-00/71**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
RFP FISCAL YEAR	2022
PROJECT SCOPE	<p>Replacement of existing structure B-44-0010 over Mud Creek, located on WIS 125, College Ave, in the town of Grand Chute, Outagamie County. The project will also include temporary signals and multiple traffic control stages on College Avenue and the surrounding local roads.</p>
	

The Northeast Region project has a more complicated utility situation. This project will likely impact utilities that require a longer lead time to relocate. A hybrid model of utility coordination may be used on this project. WisDOT has begun the coordination process with the affected utility owners. Some of the coordination will continue into the final design phase, where the design-builder may be responsible for some aspects of coordination.

As these first three projects have developed, it has continued to be apparent that each design-build project will have unique utility situations. The ACS is tracking the process with the intent of using the lessons learned on these early

projects. ACS will be working with the BTS Utility Unit to update the guidance related to utility coordination in the design-build template documents. The guidance being updated for future design-build projects must be flexible and expansive, such that it can be applied to projects with different sets of circumstances.

If you have any questions, please send them to:

DOTDTSDCOUtilityCoordination@dot.wi.gov

UN #13-3

Norman's Corner

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first of our Utility Connection Webinars! The virtual event was well attended and included many different stakeholders throughout the utility coordination industry. Special thanks to our presenters: Steve Krebs (WisDOT), Mike Meyer (Diggers Hotline), Bill Esbeck (WSTA), and Matt Grove (WTBA). We greatly appreciate the time and effort put into each presentation.



If you haven't already done so, please be sure you are registered for the next webinar to be held in December. The plan for December's outreach effort is to have an update on current WisDOT Utility Coordination Initiatives and a presentation on the WisDOT Utility Accommodation Policy. We continue to look for topics, presenters, and ideas to bring forward. WisDOT will continue to coordinate the webinars and we appreciate additional engagement from our industry partners. Your input to these sessions is vital to its success and our ability to work together to solve issues. Feel free to reach out to myself, WisDOT regional staff you may be presently working with or to the BTS Utility Unit Central Office mailbox at:

DOTDTSDCOUtilityCoordination@dot.wi.gov

Thanks,

Norman Pawelczyk

Technical Services Chief

Division of Transportation Systems Development

UN #13-4

Utility Worksheet

The initiative to revise and update the DT2236 Utility Worksheet is proceeding as planned and is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. Implementation of the revised utility worksheet is anticipated to begin in early 2022.

Revisions to the utility worksheet will make it flexible enough to coincide with the complexity of the project. For instance:

- **Simple projects** will allow utility company staff to check the appropriate responses quickly and efficiently on the utility worksheet.
- **Medium complexity projects** will necessitate additional effort by utility company staff. The appropriate response to each question on the utility worksheet must be selected and certain attachments will need to be completed.
- **Complex projects** will require the most effort by utility company staff. The appropriate response to each question on the utility worksheet must be selected and all the attachments will need to be completed.

To date, two virtual meetings have been held with the stakeholder group. The first meeting centered around gathering input on issues with the utility coordination process and the utility worksheet. The purpose of the second meeting was to gather input on the proposed revisions to several of the questions on the utility worksheet.

Over the next couple of months, the last of the proposed revisions will be shared with the stakeholder group for their review and comment. This is invaluable to the effort in making the necessary improvements that will be beneficial to all stakeholders. A big thank you goes out to all the members of the stakeholder group for their participation and input.

UN #13-5

WisDOT

Norman Pawelczyk, Bureau of Technical Services

Michael Baumann, Bureau of Technical Services

Kevin Cornnell, HNTB

Tim Hanley, North Central Region

Michael Birschbach, Southeast Region

Jeff Orr, Northeast Region

WCHA and Municipal

Brian Duell, Clark County

Adam Schelicher, City of Sun Prairie

Highway Contracting Industry

Matt Grove, WTBA

Jeff Peterson, James Peterson Sons, Inc.

Steven Nachreiner, Edgerton Contractors, Inc.

Ryan Klop, Musson Brothers, Inc.

Utility Industry

Monty Parker, Lumen

Todd Bartels, AT&T

Nicole Smullen, We Energies

Tony Marciniak, ATC

Larry Jaskowiec, TC Energy

Transportation Utility Management System (TUMS)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is creating a new set of documents for Connecting Highway projects. This aligns with WisDOT's long term goal of having a separate set of documents for State Highway, Connecting Highway, and Local Program projects.

For Connecting Highway projects, the letters and documents are only found in TUMS and are organized in the two packets as follows:

- Non-Trans 220-Notification
 - Proposed Highway Improvement Notice/Acknowledgement
- Non-Trans 220-Project Plan and Comp
 - Cover letter
 - Project Plan Transmittal
 - Utility Worksheet

In the future, these packets will be expanded to include additional letters and documents such as:

- A cover letter for notification of Non-Trans 220 project
- The list of utilities
- Utility agreements
- Release of rights documents

In addition, WisDOT continues to move forward with adding a new utility coordination scheduling component in TUMS. This will be accomplished by creating a new menu item that is titled "Schedules". From here, the utility coordinator will be able to navigate to the new screen, which is called the "Project Plan Mail Date (PPMD)". Changes to this screen since the Spring newsletter include displaying helpful project-related schedule components like:

- End dates for the Environmental Document, DSR and right of way plat.
- Start and end dates for the real estate acquisition process.

- PMP Control Schedule PS&E Date, Earliest PS&E Date, and the PS&E Date.

Ultimately, the scheduling tool will assist the utility coordinator in developing a realistic utility coordination schedule that works with the overall project schedule.

If you have any questions, please send them to:

DOTDTSDCOUtilityCoordination@dot.wi.gov

UN #13-6

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Utility Coordination Newsletter?**

[Find them here](#)



To subscribe, submit questions, suggestions, comments or potential newsletter articles, please send an email to DOTDTSDCOUtilityCoordination@dot.wi.gov. BTS/U will review each submission prior to publication.

This bulletin has been developed to provide updates, clarifications, job aids and news pertaining to WisDOT utility coordination and related WisDOT programs, policy and services. Information published in this bulletin will be of interest to those who work closely with utility coordination.