Minutes of the
WALWORTH COUNTY JURISDICTIONAL HIGHWAY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: December 17, 2015
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium
Health and Human Services Center
Walworth County Lakeland Complex
W4051 County Trunk Highway NN
Elkhorn, WI

Members Present
Kevin M. Brunner ...................................................... Director of DPW/Central Services, Walworth County
Chairman
Kenneth R. Yunker .......................................................... Executive Director, SEWRPC
Secretary
Richard Brandl ........................................................................................................ Chairman, Town of Sharon
Cameron Clapper .......................................................................................... City Manager, City of Whitewater
Dave P. Duwe ........................................................................................................... Chairman, Town of Sugar Creek
Lowell Hagen ........................................................................................................... Chairperson, Town of Whitewater
Dave Held .................................................. President, Town of Lyons Planning Commission
(Representing William Mangold)
John Kendall ........................................................................................................... Chairman, Town of Troy
Fred Klabunde ........................................................................................................... Roads Supervisor, Village of Bloomfield
(Representing Kenneth Monroe)
Tom Longtin ........................................................................................................... State Program Engineer, Southeast Region
(Representing Brett Wallace)
Dennis Martin ........................................................................................................... Administrator, Village of Fontana
John Murphy ........................................................................................................... Citizen, Town of East Troy
(Representing Joseph Klarkowski)
Blaine Oborn ........................................................................................................... Administrator, City of Lake Geneva
Judy O’Donell ........................................................................................................... Supervisor, Town of Lafayette
(Representing Daniel Cooper)
Daniel Pitt ........................................................................................................... Highway Superintendent, Town of Linn
(Representing James Weiss)
Mark A. Ruosch ........................................................................................................ President, Village of Sharon
Nancy Russell ........................................................................................................... Chair, Walworth County Board of Supervisors,
Walworth County
Ryan Simons ........................................................................................................... Chair, Town of Delavan
Eric Sterken ........................................................................................................... Road Superintendent, Town of Walworth
(Representing Joe Abell)
Mark E. Wendorf .................................................................................................. Public Works Director, City of Delavan
ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Brunner called the meeting of the Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee to order at 9:30 a.m. Attendance was taken by circulating a sign-in sheet for signature. Chairman Brunner then asked the Committee members, guests, and staff present to introduce themselves.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE WALWORTH COUNTY JURISDICTIONAL HIGHWAY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Mr. Brandl made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 5, 2015 Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kendall and was approved unanimously by the Committee.

PRESENTATION BY THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (WISDOT) ON PROJECTS IN WALWORTH COUNTY INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT’S SIX YEAR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: FY 2016 TO 2021

Mr. Longtin presented Committee members with a summary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s (WisDOT) projects in Walworth County included in the Department’s six-year (FY 2016 to 2021) highway improvement program.

[Secretary’s Note: A map and table provided by Mr. Longtin listing the projects in Walworth County included in the Department’s six-year highway improvement program is included with these minutes as Attachment A.]

The following comments and questions were raised during and following Mr. Longtin’s presentation.

1. Ms. Russell inquired about the status of the planned construction of USH 12 as a freeway on a new alignment between the Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater. Mr. Longtin replied that WisDOT has begun preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project, as required by the State’s 2013-2015 biennial budget (2013 Wisconsin Act 20). Mr. Yunker indicated that WisDOT
Chairman Brunner asked Mr. Yunker to present the VISION 2050 detailed alternative land use and transportation plans and their evaluation. Referring to the VISION 2050 alternatives handout, Mr. Yunker stated that the Commission staff developed and evaluated three detailed year 2050 land use and transportation plans. He stated that the Trend is a projection to the year 2050 of land use and transportation trends of the last 15 years, including lower density development and declines in public transit service. He stated that Alternatives I and II were developed based on public input from the initial visioning stage of VISION 2050 and include higher density land use development patterns and expanded public transit service. The three alternatives were evaluated and compared using a set of objectives and 50 criteria organized under four themes—healthy communities, mobility, cost and financial stability, and equitable access. He noted that public feedback on the alternatives and their evaluation, including comments from this Committee, will help determine which aspects of the alternatives will be included in the VISION 2050 Preliminary Recommended Plan.

The following comments and questions were raised during and following Mr. Yunker’s review of the VISION 2050 alternatives:

1. Mr. Hagen indicated that the reconstructed segment of STH 59 between S. Janesville Street and CTH M in the City of Milton accommodates bicycles both with on-street bicycle lanes and with off-street bicycle/pedestrian paths located on each side of the highway. He stated that in his opinion roadways do not need both on-street and off-street bicycle facilities, noting that off-street paths typically are not cleared of snow during the winter, and that providing both on-street and off-street accommodations increases project costs. Mr. Longtin replied that State and Federal “Complete Streets” laws and regulations guide WisDOT’s decision-making for including bicycle and pedestrian facilities as part of highway construction projects. He stated that WisDOT recognizes two types of bicyclists—more experienced/more confident bicyclists who prefer to travel at higher speeds using on-street facilities and less experienced/less confident and recreational bicyclists who prefer using off-street facilities—and that the on-street and off-street bicycle facilities along the segment of STH 59 reflect the WisDOT’s effort to accommodate a range of bicyclist and pedestrian needs.

Mr. Yunker stated that the regional transportation plan recommends the consideration of bicycle accommodation at the time an arterial roadway is resurfaced or reconstructed. Bicycle accommodations can include bicycle lanes, paved shoulders, and a separate path within the roadway right-of-way. He added that the Commission has recommended that, if a separate path is
provided within the roadway right-of-way, then a bicycle accommodation within the roadway cross-section should not be considered necessary. Mr. Yunker noted that the 2015-2017 State biennial budget (2015 Wisconsin Act 55), enacted in July 2015, repealed most of the requirements for provided bicycle and pedestrian accommodations under the State’s “Complete Streets” law. Under the current law, consideration is to be given to bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on roadway construction and reconstruction project that utilizes State and Federal funds. However, bicycle and pedestrian facilities cannot be included on State funded construction and reconstruction projects unless certain conditions exist, such as the municipalities for which the project is located has adopted a resolution authorizing WisDOT to provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. He added that following the modifications made to the State’s Complete Streets law, WisDOT could reexamine how projects using Federal funds should comply with Federal Complete Streets regulations.

2. Chairman Brunner noted that Walworth County received a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds to construct an off-street bicycle/pedestrian path along CTH NN connecting the City of Elkhorn to the Walworth County government campus on CTH NN.

DISCUSSION ON FUNCTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WALWORTH COUNTY ARTERIAL STREET AND HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE VISION 2050 PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDED REGIONAL LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

Chairman Brunner asked Mr. Yunker to present the Commission staff’s analysis of Walworth County arterial street and highway functional improvement issues raised by the Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee at its previous meeting held on February 5, 2015.

[Secretary’s Note: A document summarizing the Commission staff’s initial response to functional improvement issues raised by the Walworth County Highway Jurisdictional Committee is included with these minutes as Attachment B.]

Need for a USH 12 Interchange at CTH B

Mr. Yunker explained that a proposed USH 12 interchange at CTH B in the Village of Genoa City and Village of Bloomfield would meet urban spacing standards but may not be expected to be necessary to relieve congestion at existing freeway interchanges, as no congestion is expected by the year 2050. However, he noted that the proposed interchange would provide more direct travel to and from the Village of Genoa City urban area, eliminate the need for traffic to travel with multiple turning movements through a rural area on rural county trunk highways, support a planned potential future major employment center west of USH 12, and provide traffic relief to USH 12 south of the CTH H interchange. Mr. Yunker indicated that Commission staff recommends that the Preliminary Recommended Plan identify a potential future USH 12 interchange at CTH B, and that action be taken by the concerned local governments to preserve the right-of-way necessary to assure that the future development of the interchange is not precluded. He stated that, should the concerned local governments take the next step of participating with WisDOT in the preparation of a preliminary engineering study of the interchange, and the preliminary engineering study recommends construction of the interchange, the Commission, upon the request of the concerned local governments and
WisDOT, would take action to amend the regional transportation plan to recommend the construction of the interchange. Committee members concurred with the Commission staff’s recommendation.

Addition of Lawson School Road between STH 11 and CTH X to the planned Walworth County Arterial Street and Highway System

Mr. Yunker indicated that the addition of the segment of Lawson School Road between STH 11 and CTH X in the Town of Darien and the City of Delavan to the planned Walworth County arterial street and highway system would be warranted, as the segment of roadway is located adjacent to existing urban development of medium density, would provide desirable arterial street and highway spacing, and would provide system continuity between the Wisconsin Stateline and STH 11. Mr. Yunker indicated that Commission staff recommends that Lawson School Road between CTH X and STH 11 be included in the Preliminary Recommended Plan as a planned arterial. Committee members concurred with Commission staff’s recommendation.

In addition to the Commission staff’s analysis of Walworth County arterial street and highway functional improvement issues raised by the Committee, included in Attachment B, the Commission staff proposed additional functional improvement changes for the Committee to consider:

Reservation of Right-of-Way along Janesville Street between USH 12 and Whitewater Street to Permit Future Widening

Mr. Yunker stated that forecast year 2050 average weekday traffic volumes may be expected to approach, but not exceed, the design capacity of Janesville Street between USH 12 and Whitewater Street in the City of Whitewater. He added that the existing pavement width of Janesville Street is about 36 feet north of W. Walworth Avenue. Mr. Yunker stated that Commission staff therefore recommends that the Preliminary Recommended Plan include the reservation of right-of-way to permit future widening along this segment of Janesville Street rather than including widening of this segment from two to four traffic lanes. Mr. Clapper indicated agreement with the Commission staff’s recommendation, and the Committee also indicated concurrence.

Reservation of Right-of-Way along S. 7th Street (STH 50) between E. Wisconsin Street and E. Walworth Street (STH 11) to Permit Future Widening

Mr. Yunker stated as forecast year 2050 average weekday traffic volumes may be expected to approach, but not exceed, the design capacity of STH 50 between E. Wisconsin Street and STH 11 in the City of Delavan, Commission staff recommends that the Preliminary Recommended Plan include the reservation of right-of-way to permit future widening along this segment of STH 50 rather than including widening of this segment from two to four traffic lanes. Mr. Wendorf concurred with Commission staff’s recommendation. He also noted that it would be difficult to acquire the right-of-way necessary to accommodate widening of this segment to four traffic lanes in the future.

Responding to a question from Chairman Brunner, Mr. Hoel indicated that the planned widening of STH 50 from two to four traffic lanes between CTH F and STH 67 in the City of Delavan and the Town of Delavan was added to the Walworth County jurisdictional highway system plan by amendment in 2012. Mr. Yunker added that the jurisdictional highway system plan was amended as a result of WisDOT nearing completion of a preliminary engineering study for the reconstruction of this highway segment, and .

[Secretary’s Note: Attachment C to these minutes shows the functional improvements to the arterial street and highway system in Walworth County under the year 2050 Preliminary}
Recommended Plan as developed by the Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee and the Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation System Planning.]

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Yunker stated that the next meeting of this Committee will be scheduled after the Preliminary Recommended Plan has been completed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Mr. Wendorf, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Secretary
Project Information drawn from the Financial Integrated Improvement Programming System (FIIPS). This map was created on 11/18/2015 for planning purposes by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). Any other use or recompilation of the information, while not prohibited is the sole responsibility of the user. WisDOT expressly disclaims all liability.
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Members of the Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee identified at their February 5, 2015 meeting, functional improvement—widenings and new facilities—issues for the Walworth County arterial street and highway system to be considered as part of VISION 2050—a major update to the regional land use and transportation plans. The Commission staff’s initial response to these functional improvement issues is as follows:

- **Consider need for a USH 12 interchange at CTH B in the Village of Genoa City and Village of Bloomfield**
  
  - Proposed interchange would meet urban spacing standards (minimum 1.0 mile between ramp gores) and may not be expected to result in any operational problems on USH 12.
  
  - Proposed interchange may not be expected to be necessary relieve congestion at existing freeway interchanges as no congestion is expected by the year 2050.
  
  - The proposed interchange would:
    - Provide for more direct travel to and from the Village of Genoa City urban area,
    - Eliminate the need for traffic to travel with multiple turning movements through a rural area on rural county trunk highways,
    - Support a planned potential future major employment center west of USH 12, which may attract jobs which would otherwise be located in the State of Illinois, and,
    - Provide relief to existing USH 12 south of the CTH H interchange.

  - **Commission staff recommendation:** Commission staff recommends that the preliminary recommended year 2050 regional transportation plan identify a potential future interchange at CTH B with USH 12, and recommend that action be taken by the concerned local governments to preserve the potential necessary right-of-way to assure that the future development of the interchange is not precluded. Should the concerned local governments take the next step of participating with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) in the conduct of a preliminary engineering study of the interchange, and the preliminary engineering conclude with a recommendation to construct the interchange, the Commission, upon the request of the concerned local governments and WisDOT, would take action to amend the regional plan to recommend the construction of the interchange.

- **Consider the addition of Lawson School Road between STH 11 and CTH X in the Town of Darien and the City of Delavan to the planned Walworth County arterial street and highway system**
  
  - Existing average weekday traffic (AWDT) design capacity: 1,100
The addition of Lawson School Road between STH 11 and CTH X would be warranted, based on its spacing with adjacent arterial streets and highways, as it is located adjacent to existing urban development of medium density in the City of Delavan.

This segment of roadway would provide system continuity between the Wisconsin Stateline and STH 11.

Commission staff recommendation: As this segment of roadway is located adjacent to existing urban development of medium density and would provide desirable arterial street and highway spacing, and would provide system continuity between the Wisconsin Stateline and STH 11, Commission staff recommends that Lawson School Road between CTH X and STH 11 be included in the preliminary recommended year 2050 regional transportation plan as a planned arterial street and highway.

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