**Introduction**

**Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway System Plan**

- Original plan prepared in 1973
- Long-range plan addressing both existing and future needs
- Two types of recommendations
  - New arterial facilities and widening of existing facilities with additional traffic lanes
  - Level of government—state, county, or local—which should have jurisdictional responsibility for each arterial street and highway in Walworth County
- Advisory plan
Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee

- Guided planning effort
- Made final plan recommendations
- Representatives from:
  - Each of the 28 cities, villages, and towns in the County
  - Walworth County
  - Wisconsin Department of Transportation
  - U.S. Department of Transportation
New Arterial Facilities and Widened Existing Arterial Facilities

• 489 miles of planned arterials
  • 455 miles will require only preservation, or resurfacing and reconstruction
  • 7 miles will require widening to provide additional traffic lanes
  • 27 miles of new facilities
Recommended Functional Improvements Under the Year 2035 Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway System Plan—continued
Recommendations for Street and Highway System Jurisdictional Responsibility

- Recommendations for the level of government—state, county, or local—which should be responsible for each street and highway.
  - Changes in land use, traffic volumes, and traffic patterns.
Development of Recommended Jurisdictional Classification

- Classification of Arterial Street and Highway
  - Trip service (trip length)
  - Land use service
  - Traffic volume
- Other considerations
  - Travel speed
  - Facility spacing
  - System continuity
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Current 2005 Mileage</th>
<th>Recommended 2035 Plan Mileage</th>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>211</td>
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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>168 Arterial</td>
<td>190</td>
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<td>(25 Nonarterial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local</td>
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<td>88</td>
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Recommended Year 2035
Walworth County Jurisdictional
Highway System Plan
Recommended Year 2035 Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway System Plan—continued

CHANGES IN JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE RECOMMENDED YEAR 2035 WALWORTH COUNTY JURISDICTIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM PLAN

TRANSFER TO:
- STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- LOCAL TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- LOCAL (NON-ARTERIAL) SYSTEM

NEW FACILITY:
- STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- LOCAL TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- FULL INTERCHANGE
- HALF INTERCHANGE
Extensive Opportunity for Public Comment

- Preliminary Plan Public Informational Meeting/Hearing held on March 25, 2010
  - 141 persons provided comment
- Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee Meetings
  - April 9, 2009, meeting – 3 persons provided comment
  - August 13, 2009, meeting – 32 persons provided comment or asked questions
  - October 13, 2010, meeting – 10 persons provided comment or asked questions
Two Functional Improvement Issues Produced the Most Public Comment

- The long planned extension of USH 12 freeway between the Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater
- STH 50 between CTH F (north) and STH 67
USH 12 Between Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater

• Two alternative improvements to USH 12 were considered:
  • The long planned extension of the USH 12 freeway between the Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater.
  • The widening of the existing surface arterial route of USH 12 to four traffic lanes between the Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater.
Two Alternative Improvements Considered for USH 12 Between Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater
Need for Improvement of USH 12

Segments of USH 12 are approaching design capacity.

- Between USH 12 freeway in the City of Elkhorn and a point north of CTH A:
  - Current average weekday traffic volumes (12,200 – 13,700 AWDT) on this segment of USH 12 are approaching the design capacity (14,000 AWDT) of the existing two lane facility.
  - Additional capacity would potentially be needed in the short term.
- For the remainder of USH 12 to the City of Whitewater.
  - Forecast long term future average weekday traffic volumes are expected to approach or exceed the design capacity of the existing two lane facility.
  - Additional capacity would potentially be needed in the long term (20 to 30 years in the future).
The long-planned and officially mapped alignment of the USH 12 freeway extension.

- Recommended in State and regional plans in the mid-1960's, and in the original Walworth County jurisdictional highway system plan adopted in 1973.
- Portion of the right-of-way officially mapped by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 1967.
- Could be implemented in stages.
The reconstruction and widening of the existing route of USH 12 from two to four traffic lanes

- Reconstruct as a surface arterial (not as a freeway) maintaining at grade intersections.
- This facility would be constructed as a four-lane divided facility (some stretches could be undivided).
- Speed limits could range from 45 to 55 miles per hour.
Comparison of USH 12
Alternative Improvements

Advantages – Widening Existing USH 12 to Four Lane Surface Arterial

- Lower construction costs.
- Potentially less property acquisition.

Advantages – Extending USH 12 Freeway

- Higher speed facility providing greater accessibility.
- Safer facility (Freeway crash rates are one-half that of four lane arterials).
- Less disruptions to adjacent businesses and residences.
Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee Recommendation

- Continue to recommend the long planned extension of the USH 12 freeway between the Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater.

- WisDOT should conduct as soon as possible the necessary preliminary engineering and environmental impact study of the USH 12 corridor between the Cities of Elkhorn and Whitewater.

  - WisDOT would consider a number of alternative improvements, including these two alternatives.

  - Decision as to what would be built to be made by WisDOT following preliminary engineering and environmental impact statement.
• Between North Shore Road and CTH F (south)
  • Existing traffic volumes exceed the design capacity of the existing two-lane roadway.

• Between CTH F (south) and STH 67
  • Future forecast traffic volumes approaching, but not exceeding the design capacity of the existing two-lane roadway.
3 Alternatives Considered Between CTH F (North) and STH 67

1. Widening of STH 50 to four traffic lanes between CTH F (north) and CTH F (south) and reservation of right-of-way along STH 50 between CTH F (south) to STH 67

2. Development of alternative routes for STH 50

3. No widening
   • Recommended for final plan by Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway System Plan Committee
• Commission staff and preliminary plan recommendation:
  • Widening of STH 50 to provide four traffic lanes between North Shore Road and CTH F (south);
  • Reservation of right-of-way along STH 50 between CTH F (south) and STH 67 to accommodate future widening to four traffic lanes; and
  • Additional recommendations.
    • Minimize the acquisition of businesses and residences; and
    • Construct storm water management facilities to minimize the water quality impact to Delavan Lake.
Alternative Route: Mound Road

- Longer travel distance and travel time than existing route of STH 50.
- Estimated to divert only 1,500 vehicles per average weekday from existing route of STH 50.
- Not expected to eliminate the need for four traffic lanes on STH 50 between CTH F (north) and CTH F (south).
Alternative Route: New Alignment

- Longer travel distance, but shorter travel time.
- Expected to divert about 10,000 vehicles per average weekday, potentially enough to eliminate the need for four traffic lanes on STH 50 between CTH F (north) and CTH F (south).
- Dismissed due to the cost and potential environmental impacts in crossing Delavan Lake.
No Widening CTH F (South) to STH 67—Walworth County Jurisdictional Highway Planning Committee Recommendations

- STH 50 widened to provide four traffic lanes between North Shore Road and CTH F (north).

- STH 50 between CTH F (north) and CTH F (south) to be reconstructed as a two-lane facility with a two-way left turn lane.

- Wisconsin Department of Transportation to consider safety improvements along STH 50 between CTH F (north) and STH 67, such as the provision of protected left turns for the intersection of STH 50 and Town Hall Road/South Shore Drive.

- Mound Road between STH 11 and STH 67 to be added to the plan as an arterial facility.
Wisconsin Department of Transportation currently performing preliminary engineering and environmental study for the reconstruction of STH 50 between IH 43 and STH 67.

A number of alternatives were considered by the Department.

A public informational meeting was held on April 20th in Delavan, and comments are being solicited until May 20, 2011.

Preferred alternative for STH 50
- IH-43 to North Shore Road: widen to six lanes
- North Shore Road to CTH F (north): widen to four lanes
- CTH F (north) to CTH F (south): widen to four lanes with roundabouts
- CTH F (south) to STH 67: widen to four traffic lanes
Next Steps

- Public Works Committee recommendation for Walworth County Board of Supervisors adoption of Jurisdictional Highway System Plan.
- Adoption of Jurisdictional Highway System Plan by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors
- Adoption of Jurisdictional Highway System Plan by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Adoption of Jurisdictional Highway System Plan by each city, village, and town within Walworth County.