



NEWS

Wisconsin Department of Transportation



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Public meeting on proposed design alternatives for US 41 Project

Meeting will help decide future of I-43/US 41 interchange

(Green Bay) The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) NE region office in Green Bay is announcing a public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., to present current design alternatives for US 41 between Memorial Drive and County M (Lineville Road) in Brown County. The meeting will be held at Bay View Middle School, 1217 Cardinal Lane, Howard. A short presentation is planned for 5:15 p.m.

WisDOT is looking to gather feedback to help refine design alternatives being considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a 3.5-mile portion of US 41 between Memorial Drive and Lineville Road. The alternatives include improvements to the US 41 interchanges at Velp Avenue, I-43, and Lineville Road.

There are five plans being considered:

- No Build Alternative A – US 41 remains a four-lane freeway. Minimal improvements made to repair existing structures and driving surfaces to preserve current service levels.
- Build Alternatives B through E - All four alternatives share the following elements; adding traffic lanes to US 41, reconstructing County M (Lineville Road) and US 141 (Velp Avenue) interchanges while incorporating roundabouts at ramp terminals, providing access to Wietor Wharf Park, and building a bridge over US 41 at Lakeview Drive. The primary difference between the alternatives is how improvements to the I-43 interchange are handled.

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Alternatives B, C, and D would add capacity to US 41 between Velp Avenue and I-43 interchanges through the use of auxiliary lanes or a collector-distributor (CD) system. The CD allows vehicles to enter and exit the freeway on a separate roadway, without merging with through traffic lanes. Each alternative has minor improvements to the I-43 interchange and access to the freeway from Velp Avenue remains as it is today.

Alternative E would completely rebuild the I-43 interchange, constructing a system interchange between I-43 and US 41. The design would include new high speed, free-flow ramps between the two freeways in all directions. Under this alternative, access between I-43 and Velp Avenue would be eliminated. Local traffic would need to use an alternative interchange to access I-43.

Feedback received at the meeting will be used to refine the proposed designs and be considered in the draft EIS (DEIS) currently under development. After a public hearing on the DEIS in the fall of 2010, WisDOT will select a preferred alternative and take the design to the public once again. The final EIS will name the preferred alternative and any commitments needed to mitigate impacts through construction. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in fall of 2011. Construction would then begin in 2013 through 2017.

The meeting site is wheelchair accessible. Hearing impaired persons needing assistance may call the Wisconsin Telecommunication Relay System at 711. To allow time for arranging assistance, please call no later than three working days prior to the meeting. For additional information interested persons may contact the WisDOT project manager, Mindy Gardner at (920) 492-0133 or send e-mail to mindy.gardner@dot.wi.gov.

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NOTE: News releases can be viewed on the Web at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm.