

Division of Transportation System Development Scott Walker, Governor Dave Ross,
Secretary

Southwest Region 2101 Wright St Madison, WI 53704-2583

February 28, 2017

RE: I-39/90/94 Study

Madison to Portage

Dane and Columbia Counties

WisDOT Project ID 1010-10-00

Dear PAC/TAC Member,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have decided to officially end the I-39/90/94 (Madison – Portage) Tier 1 EIS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) corridor study that began in 2014. Work on the Tier 1 EIS has ended as of February 24, 2017. WisDOT and FHWA are currently working on a Notice of Intent (NOI) to rescind the original NOI. This update is being sent to all involved stakeholders to ensure this action is uniformly understood.

The Tier 1 EIS is being canceled due to recent and on-going reprioritization of major transportation projects.

The Department will soon begin a new National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate replacement for the existing Wisconsin River Bridges. Any future transportation improvements along I-39/90/94 corridor will progress under a separate environmental review process, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

When Tier 1 EIS activities were halted, the Department was working toward finalizing the range of corridor alternatives. This included four freeway corridors partially on new alignment east of the interstate and three alternatives on the existing interstate corridor. Analyses of new right-of-way requirements, including home and business relocations, and wetland and stream impacts of the four East Reliever corridor alternatives indicated substantially higher human and natural environmental impacts than any of the three alternatives along the existing I-39/90/94 corridor. Accordingly, prior to termination of the study, the Department was proposing to remove the East Reliever alternative corridors from further consideration.

At this time, WisDOT is simply making sure all involved stakeholders are aware that the Tier 1 EIS has been ended. Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your past participation and assistance with this study.

Sincerely,

Robert Knorr

Project Manager, I-39/90/94