



Highway 29 Corridor Preservation Plan

Dave Meurett, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

WisDOT is preparing a WIS 29 Corridor Preservation Plan. The plan's limits extend from WIS 13 in Abbotsford to US 51 in Wausau. The plan will provide a long-term vision for the corridor with the goal of officially designating, mapping and preserving the corridor as a freeway.

As a freeway, all the at-grade intersections would be replaced by interchanges, cul-de-sacs, and local service roads to safely balance access and mobility.

Freeway conversion will occur over a number of decades when traffic and safety conditions warrant and funding is available.

WisDOT Guidelines for freeway conversion projects:

- In rural areas, service interchanges every 6 to 8 miles provides reasonable access to local communities
- In urban or developing areas, the desirable minimum spacing of service interchanges is about 2 miles
- Interchanges are considered at cross roads carrying 2,000 vehicles per day or greater in the design year
- In rural areas, grade separations every 3 to 5 miles provide reasonable access across a freeway facility

Next steps in the WIS 29 Corridor Preservation Plan:

- Develop and evaluate access to each property and determine feasibility of service roads
- Prepare environmental assessment that documents the impacts of the freeway conversion
- Stakeholder and public involvement meetings to gather input on service road options

Questions? Comments?
Dave Meurett
Project Manager
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Highway 29 Corridor—Incomplete Plan

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning & Zoning

WISDOT has selected one WIS 29 concept for each of the 4 segments for further review. These concepts identify the proposed location of interchanges and overpasses. After a concept is chosen for each segment, DOT will seek input on service road options.

Marathon County is concerned that access concepts are being selected without service roads identified. Without a plan for service roads, it is difficult for local stakeholders to determine the access that would least disrupt internal mobility.

Marathon County believes DOT should identify both WIS 29 access and service roads prior to selection. The Environmental Resources Committee, County Highway and CPZ departments and affected municipalities will continue to work with DOT on WIS29.

Special points of interest:

- Please notify Emergency Management of any hazard mitigation activities your community has completed since the adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (2005)
- New Private On-site Waste Treatment System (POWTS) transfer of property program.
- Update of the status of the Eau Pleine Aerator
- Upcoming joint meeting with FEMA, Marathon County and communities to assist in NFIP participation—February 18, 2009

Road Limits and Agricultural Hauling

Jim Griesbach, Highway

With spring around the corner, the agricultural activities in the local communities will increase. Manure spreading and fieldwork will be in full swing. Local roads and bridges as well as shoulders and turning points are very vulnerable to damage due to excessive loading.

Agriculture **does not** have special exemptions to weight and load size limits. Most roads are designed with specific weight loading capacities, usually 80,000 lbs total weight. Bridges have weight load limits as well that varies with bridge structure. Flotation tires do not exempt or change the stresses.

local officials to maintain and protect the local road systems for safety and to protect our investments. Oversize load permits may be granted for emergency and non-divisible loads.

Local communities can recoup costs for damages to roads, bridges, and shoulders as well as clean-up costs in the event of a spill.

Marathon County is working on an informational brochure explaining road limits, agricultural hauling policies and road use and local response to violations. We are planning informational meetings for Town officials in early spring.

Informational Meeting

Meetings regarding road limits and agricultural hauling will be held in early spring.

Watch for notices!

Information will be sent to all municipal clerks.

For information on obtaining oversize load permits in the event of an emergency contact the Marathon County Highway Department at (715)261-1800.



It is the responsibility of

Negotiating Difficult Situations

Mary Kluz, UW-Extension

We negotiate all the time, whether or not we are aware. Obvious negotiations include discussing contract specifications or the price of materials. Policy development can also benefit if treated as negotiation, although we often don't think of it in those terms. Skills in negotiation can move a conflict to creative solutions.

Marathon County UW-Extension is hosting a workshop specifically for local officials on February 14, 2009, *Negotiating for Lasting Agreements*.

This workshop presents a negotiation framework developed at Harvard Law School that is based on real-world experience. The framework provides a structure which allows us to respond thoughtfully.

The workshop is a chance for you to interact with other local officials to share strategies. For more information, contact Mary Kluz, Community Resource Development Agent, (715)261-1241.

Saturday February 14, 2009
9 AM to 1 PM
212 River Drive, Wausau
Registration required: \$15 includes materials and lunch



Eau Pleine Aerator

Andy Johnson, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

What? In late winter and early spring, agricultural runoff and sediment churning reduce oxygen in the Eau Pleine Reservoir endangering the health of the fishery. An aerator is used to add oxygen to the water to help the fish through this critical period.

The goal of the aeration system is to create one mile of open water.

Who? Due to budget constraints Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department can no longer maintain or operate the aerator at the Eau Pleine Reservoir. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation (WVIC) will take over the operation of the system this season.

How? The system will be started as early as ice conditions are adequate for constructing a fence.

WVIC will monitor water conditions to detect changes in pollutant load.

Landowners will be cautioned about winter land spreading practices and where to get help if problems arise.



Private Sewage Systems: Transfer of Property

Dale Dimond, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

In order to protect new property owners and provide an orderly system for identifying and replacing failing private sewage systems (POWTS), new "Transfer of Property" regulations will become effective on April 1, 2009. These will require an evaluation of an existing POWTS before a change in ownership of a property (with some exceptions for newer systems, those recently evaluated, etc.). Under the new rules, the grantor (seller) must hire a properly licensed individual to inspect an existing POWTS and submit a complete report to the county before transferring ownership.

When a POWTS passes inspection, the county will accept the report and verify the system is enrolled in the county's maintenance program. If the report identifies a defective or failing POWTS, the county will issue a directive requiring correction. Corrections do not need to be completed before transfer of ownership, but must be completed within the time frame set in the county directive.

Conservation, Planning & Zoning will hold informational/training sessions this winter for those involved with real estate sales and for licensed persons who will be inspecting the POWTS.

Transfer of Property requirements can be found in Section 15.12 of Marathon County's Private Sewage System Ordinance at www.co.marathon.wi.us (look for Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department under the Government / Departments & Services tabs).

If you have any questions concerning these requirements, contact:

Dale Dimond at (715) 261-6028.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

To be eligible for state and federal disaster relief funds or planning and project grant funds, communities must adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan. FEMA requires the plan to be updated every 5 years, include public participation, and demonstrate implementation progress from the previously approved plan. Marathon County and its communities adopted a plan in 2005.

Marathon County is preparing to update the 2005 Plan. As part of the implementation progress requirement, Emergency Management is conducting a survey to identify mitigation activities that have been completed or are in progress. All municipal clerks received the survey from Emergency Management in November.

If you haven't already done so, please send the requested information to Emergency Management as soon as possible.

Questions?

Diane Wessel: (715) 261-6042
Jerome Boettcher: (715) 261-1229

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

To participate in NFIP, incorporated communities and Marathon County must adopt the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) distributed by FEMA.

Participation also requires communities to adopt a floodplain zoning ordinance or make changes to existing ordinances.

If a community does not participate, the following programs may not be available to residents:

- Flood insurance
- Federally guaranteed loans
- Federal disaster relief

All incorporated communities should have received these maps on disc and a letter from FEMA explaining the requirements.

To assist the communities in completing the requirements of NFIP, Marathon County is hosting a workshop on February 18th, 2009. Meeting notices will be sent in January. The State NFIP coordinator will be available to answer questions.

For more information: Diane Wessel (715) 261-6042



Community Connections

Marathon CPZ
210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

Nonprofit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #186
Wausau, WI

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER BY THE MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND ITS DEPARTMENTS

Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040
Health: 261-1900
Highway: 261-1800
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550
Solid Waste: 446-3339
UW-Extension: 261-1230

The Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee provides guidance on policies and strategies that balance, protect and enhance environmental and community resources through cooperation with all levels of government.

We're on the Web!
www.co.marathon.wi.us

Working Lands Initiative Workshop March 12, 2009

Marathon and Lincoln Counties will be hosting a workshop on March 12, 2009 at the NorthCentral Technical College. The purpose of the workshop is to develop policies and programs for protecting cropland and woodland from development and conversion. Farmers, local officials, and realtors are welcome. Notices will be sent to local officials in February.

Neighborhood Connections

A Tale of a Town That Made Lemonade Out Of Lemons

Greg Stark, Wien resident

In 1999 an electrical utility proposed a construction project to upgrade their grid system. This 345 KV electrical transmission line cut across Wisconsin and Minnesota. Several routes were proposed. To be proactive, the town of Wien passed a resolution opposing the destruction of land for the construction of a project that was to lessen usage and value.

The 345 KV electrical transmission line was constructed on existing easements, undisturbed lands, and productive lands. The utility crossed the town at an angle from corner to corner. Every 40-acre parcel had about 4 acres of electrical easement.

Here we come to the part of making lemons into lemonade.

The state mandates state regulated utilities give the affected community a stipend to offset the negative effects of the utility on the land. Wien chose to invest the money in a Certificate of Deposit and use it to fund a conservation and renewable energy projects grant program.

A committee of residents formulated a plan to lessen the carbon footprint of our society and preserve and protect our township. We need to change with the times to preserve for the future.

Our plan was dedicated to retrofitting and up-grading existing buildings to become more energy efficient. The committee chose to offset residents' costs of upgrading to increase energy efficiency. Eligible projects include: insulating buildings, upgrading lighting, and using renewable energy sources.

Those who have participated in the program have been positive. The committee has steered people to parallel programs such as USDA, Federal tax credits, Army Corps of Engineers, Farm Services, Focus on Energy, DNR.

The Wien grant is not a free handout but a co-pay. This program is a 15% to 75% cost share to our residents when piggybacked with other programs.

PLAN CONSERVE and LIVE for the future.

