

Hearing Handout Packet



Public Hearing For Environmental Assessment

North Avenue (County M)

Calhoun Road to 124th Street

Waukesha County, Wisconsin

Project IDs: 2759-03-00/70, 2766-00-01/2759-03-70

Brookfield Central High School Cafeteria

16900 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield, WI

Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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Welcome

Thank you for attending today’s public hearing for the North Avenue project. This public hearing provides you the opportunity to give testimony on the Environmental Assessment that contains information regarding proposed transportation improvements that affect both near-term and long-term changes to the corridor.

Public Hearing Agenda

Time	Item
4:30 p.m.	Sign in, pick up handout, review exhibits, visit with project staff and ask questions about the proposed improvements.
	Important! – Determine if you will be providing testimony. If so, determine which option(s) and follow the instructions*.
	Availability to provide Private Verbal Testimony* and Written Testimony* begins. Both options are available until the end of the public hearing.
6:00 p.m.	Project presentation in cafeteria
6:15 p.m. (approx)	Public Verbal Testimony* option begins in cafeteria upon completion of project presentation.
	Opportunity to review exhibits and visit with project staff continues.
8:00 p.m.	Public Hearing ends.
	Written, mail in email testimony* available until January 23, 2019.

*See the following “Options and Instructions for Providing Testimony”

Options and Instructions for Providing Testimony

There are several options for providing testimony as described below. Your testimony will be reviewed and considered by Waukesha County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the process for choosing the preferred alternative. **Testimony should be limited to tonight’s public hearing aspects (see Page 3) and statements or opinions about the project.** Provide comments on the alternative(s) you support or oppose and your reasons. Questions related to the project can be directed to project staff during the informal discussions but will not be recorded by the court reporter or included in the public hearing record.

Private Verbal Testimony

This option may be preferred if you wish to make your statement privately to the court reporter rather than in front of an audience. This option is available during the entire public hearing 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., although you are also encouraged to attend the project presentation starting at 6:00 p.m. Follow the signs or ask for directions to the location for providing private verbal testimony. Wait for an opening, provide the court reporter with your completed "Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony" (included in this handout packet or on a table in the conference room), state your name, address, and if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. Then give the court reporter your testimony.

Public Verbal Testimony

Following the project presentation at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria, public verbal testimony will be accepted. Complete a "Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony" (included in this handout packet or on a table at the entrance). Give it to designated project staff any time before, during or immediately following the project presentation. Your name will be called in the order the registration slips are received. When you are called to the microphone to provide testimony, please state your name, address, and if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. Please limit your testimony to approximately 3 minutes to allow time for others to provide their testimony in public. You can testify again as part of the public verbal testimony after others wishing to testify have done so. Public verbal testimony will continue until everyone interested in providing testimony has had the opportunity to do so or until the public hearing ends at 8:00 p.m., whichever comes first.

Written Testimony

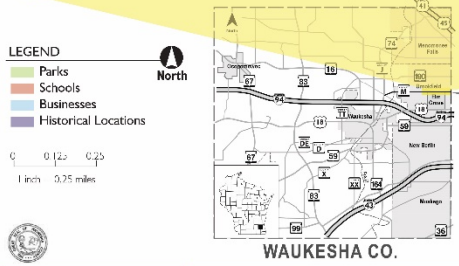
You may provide written testimony in addition to, or in place of, verbal testimony. Complete the "Written Testimony Form" (included in this handout packet or on a table at the main entrance). You may also use your own stationary. Include your name, address, and if applicable, the group, organization or business you are representing. If you prepared written testimony prior to the public hearing, you may submit that also. There are two options for submitting your written testimony as described below.

Submit Tonight: Complete the Written Testimony Form and place the form along with any other supporting documentation in the box located on the table in the cafeteria.

OR,

Mail In: You may prefer this option if you would like additional time to organize your thoughts/testimony. The Written Testimony Form is pre-addressed and does require postage. You may also send written testimony via e-mail. See "Waukesha County Contact Information" on Page 10 of this handout. Mailed or e-mailed testimony must be postmarked or received no later than January 23, 2019 to be included in the official public hearing record.

Project/Study Location Map



North Avenue Improvements Project
 Exhibit 1
 Project Location Map
 North Avenue Improvements - Waukesha County

Purpose of the Public Hearing

The objective of the public hearing and environmental document availability period is to get the most complete expression of public opinion regarding the project aspects listed in this handout on the record. Testimony provided during this public hearing and during the environmental document availability period will be considered along with all other judgments and opinions received before further decisions are made on the proposed project alternatives. This public hearing includes opportunities to provide public/private verbal testimony to a court reporter and/or written testimony. All testimony will be entered into the public hearing record along with other public hearing presentations, exhibits and materials

This public hearing will focus on the following aspects of the proposed North Avenue project:

- The location and design features of the proposed improvements and alternatives being considered.
- The National and Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act public hearing process, as applicable, on projects which include preparation of an environmental document. The final environmental document prepared following this public hearing will be the decision document for the proposed improvements. Copies of the environmental document are available for review at this public hearing.
- Project activities that require authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act for placing fill into waters of the United States including wetlands.

Environmental Document Process

The environmental documentation process includes development of a project purpose and need, range of alternatives, evaluation and screening of alternatives and selection of a preferred alternative. Numerous factors are considered throughout the environmental document development process including safety, mobility, compatibility with state/regional/local plans, engineering design standards, impacts to the socio-economic, natural and physical environment, cost, and input from the public and state/federal review agencies.

The North Avenue projects is currently at the Environmental Assessment stage. The Environmental Assessment documents the project purpose and need for the proposed improvements, alternatives considered, environmental impacts of the alternatives retained for detailed study, and public involvement and agency coordination during the development of the purpose and need and refinement of alternatives. The final environmental document will identify the preferred alternative, reasons for its selection and summarize the results of public testimony provided during the public hearing and document availability period along with agency comments on the Environmental Assessment.

Information for the Public Hearing Record

In addition to the testimony provided at this public hearing, all exhibits, handouts, audio/visual presentations and displays available for viewing at the public hearing will be included in the official public hearing record. Page (page number) of this handout contains a complete listing of these materials. Other materials, along with other written testimony received after the public hearing, will be added to the official public hearing record provided they are postmarked or received no later than January 23, 2019.

Project Statement

Project Purpose: The primary purposes of the proposed action are to improve traffic operations and safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians along the North Avenue corridor.

Project Need: The need to evaluate improvements along North Avenue is based on a combination of factors, including:

- Capacity
- Safety
- Multi-modal corridor
- Roadway deficiencies
- System linkage

Summary of Alternatives:

- No Build Alternative
- Three-Lane Roadway with Two-Way Left-Turn Lane Alternative
- Four-Lane Divided Roadway Alternative (**Preferred Alternative**)
- Five-Lane Roadway with Two-Way Left-Turn Lane Alternative

While the No-Build Alternative would have minimal environmental impacts and routine maintenance cost, it does not meet the purpose and need of the project. It does not address traffic operational needs, improve safety, provide pedestrian or bicycle accommodations or address roadway deficiencies. Therefore, it was dropped from consideration.

The three-lane roadway was dropped from consideration because it also did not meet the purpose and need of the project.

The four-lane divided roadway with two-way left-turn lane alternative became the preferred alternative. This alternative would accommodate existing and future traffic and ensure the corridor functions with an acceptable level of service. It accommodates safe turning movements and adds sidewalk or a multi-use path along both sides of the roadway. This alternative also replaced deteriorating pavement and corrects design deficiencies along the corridor.

The five-lane roadway was dropped from consideration because it is less safe, has a larger impact on drainage and storm water management and it also costs more than the other alternatives. Turn movements would be less safe because of the absence of a median and there would be more conflict points with the Two-Way Left-Turn Lane.

Summary of the Preferred Alternative:

The proposed action consists of reconstructing approximately 3 miles of North Avenue (County M) from Calhoun Road on the west and 124th Street (Waukesha/Milwaukee County Line) on the east. The Four-Lane Divided Roadway Alternative is the Preferred Alternative because it meets the project's purpose and need (provide for current and future traffic volumes and address safety operations) and would have fewer impacts than the other alternative that also meets the project's purpose and need.

The proposed improvements would include:

- Reconstructing North Avenue as a consistent, four-lane divided roadway through the entire project corridor. This would involve expanding sections of North Avenue from the existing two-lane configuration to four-lanes.
- The roadway would consist of 11-foot inside lanes and 14-foot outside lanes that would accommodate bicycles. The proposed median would be 24 to 30 feet wide, with median openings at selected cross streets to allow turns. The locations of median openings would be further evaluated through the design process. Intersections along the project corridor would be reconstructed to tie in with the new alignment.
- Creating safer driving conditions by providing a median, removing left-turning vehicles from through traffic, providing two-stage crossing, and updating signal timing.
- Updating the drainage systems and provide new stormwater management.

- Providing pedestrian and bicycle accommodations with sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Portions of these sidewalks would be designated as multi-use paths. Additional bicycle accommodations would be provided by a widened outside lane through the corridor.
- Replacing the existing pavement
- Addressing several design deficiencies, such as substandard or unusual intersection configurations and vertical curves. Several hills along the corridor would be lowered slightly to improve sight distances.
- Replacing the bridge over Underwood Creek near Lilly Road and extending the culverts at the Pilgrim Road intersection.

The proposed action would require approximately 6.5 acres of new right-of-way, would maintain access to all properties and would require two residential property acquisitions.

Alternatives Comparison Matrix

The alternatives comparison matrix from the environmental document is included below. Only the preferred alternative and no build alternative are shown. FHWA notes in the Environmental Review Toolkit, “As a rule, if an alternative does not satisfy the purpose and need for action, it should not be included in the analysis as an apparent and reasonable alternative.”¹

¹ https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/nepa/trans_decisionmaking.aspx

Alternatives Comparison Matrix

PROJECT PARAMETERS	Unit of Measure	Alternatives/Sections	
		No Build ²	4-Lane (Preferred Alternative)
Project Length	Miles	3	3
PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE (Year of Expenditure)			
Construction	Million \$	0.887 ³	21.8
Real Estate	Million \$	0	4.2
TOTAL	Million \$	0.887	26.0
LAND CONVERSIONS			
Total Area Converted to Right-of-Way	Acres	0	8.5
REAL ESTATE			
Number of Farms Affected	Number	0	0
Total Area Required from Farm Operations	Acres	0	0
AIS Required		No	No
Farmland Rating	Score	N/A	N/A
Total Buildings Required	Number	0	0
Housing Units Required	Number	0	0
Commercial Units Required	Number	0	0
Other Buildings or Structures Required	Number	0	0
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS			
Indirect Effects		No	No
Cumulative Effects		No	No
Environmental Justice Populations		Yes	Yes
National Register Eligible Historic Structures in the Area of Potential Effect	Number	0	2
National Register Eligible Archeological Sites in the Area of Potential Effect	Number	0	0
Burial Site Protection (<i>authorization required</i>)		No	No
106 MOA Required		No	Yes
Section 4(f) Evaluation Required		No	Yes
Section 6(f) Land Conversion Required		No	No
Flood Plain		No	Yes
Unique Upland Habitat Identified		Yes	Yes
Total Wetlands Filled	Acres	0	1.0
Stream Crossings	Number	2	2
Threatened/Endangered Species		No	No
Noise Analysis Required		No	Yes
Receptors Impacted	Number	0	4
Contaminated Sites	Number	0	7

² The estimated cost of routine maintenance through the design year should be included in the "Construction" box for the No Build alternative. * Four-Lane Divided Roadway (**Preferred Alternative**)

³ Based on Waukesha County maintenance cost estimate of \$4,600 per lane mile per year (2016 dollars) adjusted to year-of-expenditure dollars between 2020 and 2040

Property Acquisition/Relocation Assistance and Benefits

The proposed action would require approximately 6.5 acres of new right-of-way. Property acquisition would likely include the following:

Elm-Brook State Bank:

- Approximately 0.07 acres of permanent property acquisition
- Approximately 0.11 acres of temporary property acquisition

Daubner Farmstead

- Approximately 0.08 acres of temporary property acquisition

Franklin Wirth Park

- Approximately 1.76 acres of permanent property acquisition
- Approximately 0.85 acres of temporary property acquisition

In the Village of Elm Grove, it is anticipated that one residential property will be acquired as part of the project. The residential property is a 3-bedroom home valued at approximately \$275,000.

In the City of Brookfield, it is anticipated that one residential property will be acquired as part of the project. The residential property is a 2-bedroom home valued at approximately \$180,000.

Property acquisitions and relocations will be completed in accordance with the “Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act), as amended.” In addition to providing for payment of “Just Compensation” for property acquired, additional benefits are available to eligible displaced persons forced to relocate from their business. Some available benefits include relocation advisory services, reimbursement of moving expenses, replacement of business payments. In compliance with state law, no person would be displaced unless a comparable replacement business would be provided.

Compensation is available to all displaced persons without discrimination. Before initiating property acquisition activities, property owners will be contacted and given an explanation of the details of the acquisition process and Wisconsin’s Eminent Domain Law under Section 32.05, Wisconsin Statutes. Any property to be acquired will be inspected by one or more professional appraisers. The property owner will be invited to accompany the appraiser during the inspection to ensure the appraiser is informed of every aspect of the property. Property owners will be given the opportunity to obtain an appraisal by a qualified appraiser that will be considered by WisDOT in establishing just compensation. Reasonable cost of an owner’s appraisal will be reimbursed to the owner if received within 60 days of initiation of negotiations. Based on the appraisal(s) made, the value of the property will be determined, and that amount offered to the owner.

Next Steps

At the end of the document availability period, the project team will review and consider all public hearing testimony received on the Environmental Assessment. This input will assist the project team in selecting the preferred alternative. Upcoming milestones in completing the engineering and environmental study for the North Avenue project include the following:

- Final environmental document (spring 2019)
- Begin property acquisition (underway)
- Begin construction (spring 2020)
- Complete construction (late 2021)

Description of Public Hearing Exhibits

The following exhibits and materials are available for review:

- Large format maps showing parks, historic structures, streets and wetland impacts
- Display board showing roadway typical section
- Display board showing the purpose of the project and why it is needed
- Directions for attendees that would like to provide testimony
- Display board showing park and historic properties
- Three copies of the approved Environmental Assessment (EA)

Contact Information

Submittal of Written testimony or general project questions

Additional written public hearing testimony on the Environmental Assessment after this public hearing should be sent to the Waukesha County project manager at the address or email address given below. Additional testimony will be added to the official public hearing record and considered in the final environmental document provided it is postmarked or received no later than January 23, 2019.

Ed Hinrichs
Waukesha County Department of Public Works
515 W Moreland Blvd, Rm 220
Waukesha, WI 53188
ehinrichs@waukeshacounty.gov

Property acquisition/relocation questions

Questions specific to property acquisition and/or relocations of homes and businesses can be most efficiently answered by real estate staff.

Karen Braun
Waukesha County Department of Public Works
515 W Moreland Blvd, Rm 220
Waukesha, WI 53188
kbraun@waukeshacounty.gov

Project website (project information, schedule and updates)

More information can be found at northavenuereconstruction.org

The Environmental Assessment is available for inspection and copying at the following locations:

Brookfield Public Library
1900 N Calhoun Road
Brookfield, WI 53005

Elm Grove Public Library
13600 Juneau Boulevard
Elm Grove, WI 53122

Waukesha County Department of Public Works
515 W. Moreland Blvd, Rm. 220
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-548-7740

Southeast Region Office
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
141 N.W. Barstow
Waukesha, WI 53188

Bureau of Technical Services
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
4822 Madison Yards Way 5th Floor South
P.O. Box 7965
Madison, WI 53707

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Waukesha County Department of Public Works

515 W Moreland Blvd, Rm 220

Waukesha, WI 53188

Attn: Ed Hinrichs

Fold here and tape to mail

Registration Slip for Verbal Testimony

North Avenue from Calhoun Road to 124th Street

Public Hearing

Brookfield Central High School Cafeteria, 16900 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield, WI

Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This registration slip may be used for providing public or private verbal testimony. Following the project presentation at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria, public verbal testimony will take place. Complete this registration slip and submit it to a project team representative during or immediately following the presentation. Your name will be called in the order registration slips are received. When you are called to the microphone to provide testimony, please state your name, address, and who you represent if applicable (for example a business). Please speak slowly and clearly. A court reporter will record your testimony. Please limit your testimony to comments and/or opinions regarding the proposed project aspects for which this public hearing is being held. To allow everyone a chance to speak, please limit your testimony to approximately 3 minutes.

The same process applies for providing private verbal testimony, but this registration slip should be presented directly to the court reporter when a spot is available to provide your private verbal testimony.

If you do not wish to speak but would like to use this registration slip to record your position on the alternatives being considered at the public hearing, please check the applicable boxes below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

If applicable - group, organization, or business you are representing:

Wishing to speak

Not wishing to speak, but please record my position on the alternatives being considered at the public hearing:

Support, describe: _____

Do Not Support, describe: _____
