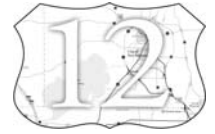




US Highway 12 Fort Atkinson Draft Environmental Impact Study Public Hearing



November 29, 2005
Luther Elementary School

Welcome

Welcome to tonight's public hearing! Thank you for attending. Your comments are important to us as we complete the public comment period, which runs from October 28, 2005 until December 14, 2005.

There are several ways to submit your comments. Instructions on how to give testimony and comments are explained below.

Look for project engineers and other project team members – who are wearing nametags – to answer your questions and help explain the exhibits.

Agenda

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Open House and Opportunity for Private Testimony

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Presentation and Public Testimony

Instructions for Providing Comment and/or Testimony

You may choose one of the following three options to provide your input into the decision-making process. All comments, received during the public comment period, whether written or spoken, will be entered into the public record. Persons with an interest in or knowledge about historical or archaeological resources in the project areas are invited to present such information.

The options are:

1. Provide *written comment* via the comment form provided with this handout. These comment forms may be deposited in the comment box, or mailed in and postmarked by December 14, 2005.
2. Provide *private oral testimony* by using the court reporter that is provided for this purpose. You need not register to use this option.
3. Provide *public oral testimony*. To use this option, you must fill out the speaker registration form below and turn it in at the reception table. The Hearing Chairperson will call your name when it is your turn to give testimony. *Oral testimony will be limited to three minutes. Please respect this time limit so that all here are afforded an equal opportunity to speak.*

Speaker Registration Form US 12 Fort Atkinson Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Please clearly print your name, address and who you are representing below.

Leave the completed form at the registration table.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Representing (if applicable): _____

We appreciate your comments.

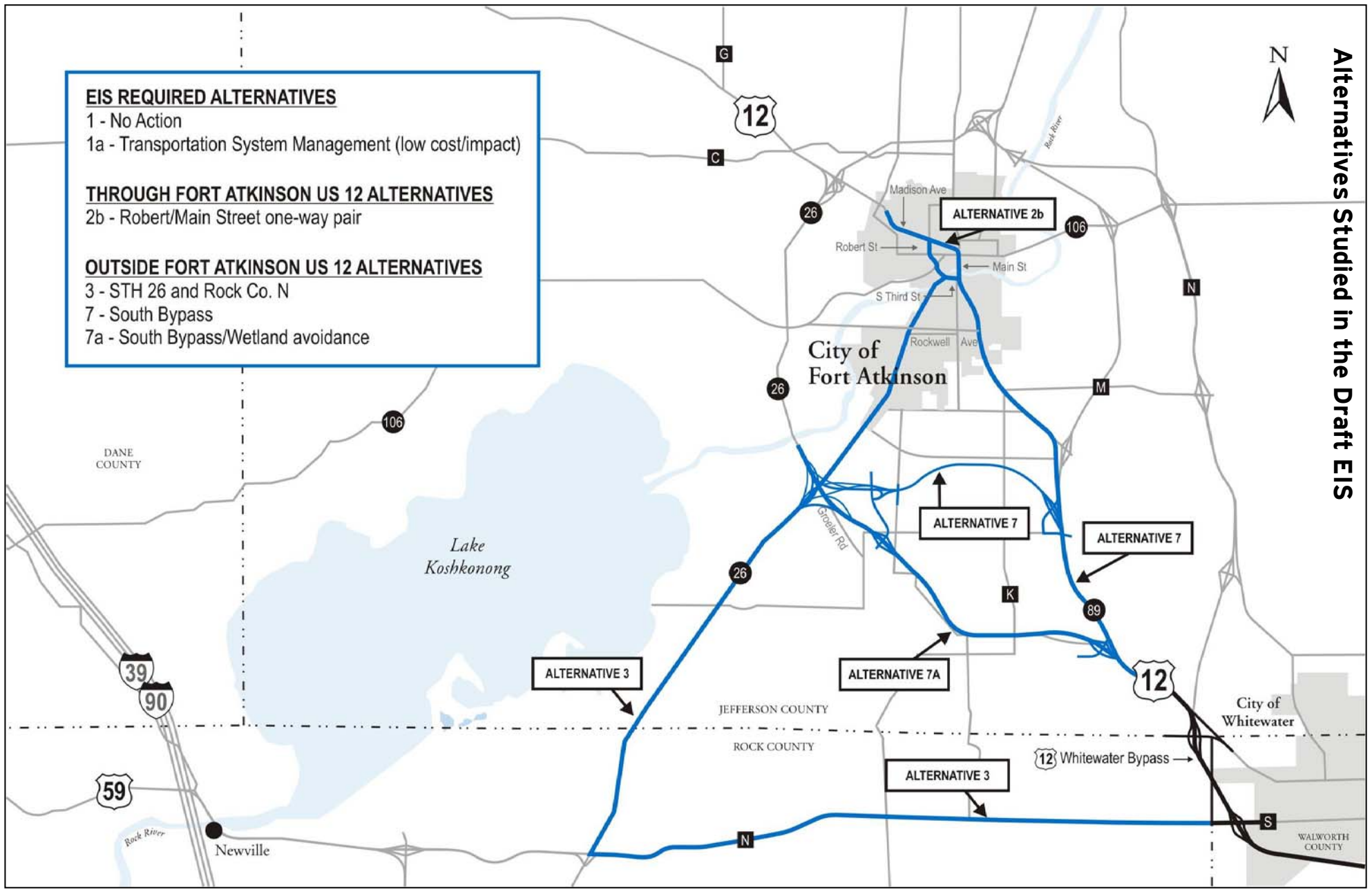
Please remember to keep your remarks concise to allow time for all who wish to speak tonight.



EIS REQUIRED ALTERNATIVES
 1 - No Action
 1a - Transportation System Management (low cost/impact)

THROUGH FORT ATKINSON US 12 ALTERNATIVES
 2b - Robert/Main Street one-way pair

OUTSIDE FORT ATKINSON US 12 ALTERNATIVES
 3 - STH 26 and Rock Co. N
 7 - South Bypass
 7a - South Bypass/Wetland avoidance



Project Statement

Project Description

US Highway 12 is a part of the National Highway System and is classified as a connector route in the Corridors 2020 state highway plan. US 12 currently bisects the City of Fort Atkinson on a split route through residential areas and the central business district. A needs assessment showed existing and increasing congestion and safety problems on the existing route. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) reviews several alternative solutions to the problems including some potential bypass locations in addition to the no-build and transportation system management alternatives. The purpose is to:

- Improve current and future regional traffic flow to serve inter-state and inter-regional travelers.
- Improve safety for users including pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicles.
- Accommodate heavy traffic volumes, including heavy trucks, so that the roadway meets the role of a Corridors 2020 and National Highway System route.
- Improve the Level of Service of US 12 in the study area.

Project Alternatives

Many alternatives were originally considered and six were retained for more detailed study in the Draft EIS. No preferred alternative has been selected by WisDOT at this time. The alternatives are shown on the map included in this handout.

Pertinent Issues

Based upon public comments and through agency coordination, WisDOT identified the following primary issues.

The Town of Koshkonong stated that a bypass could result in a loss of tax revenue from lands lost to roadways, would have negative impacts to rural character, agricultural businesses and wetland habitat, and create the potential for secondary growth impacts from the City of Fort Atkinson.

The City of Fort Atkinson has an expressed need to provide access to their industrial park and to eliminate the mix of regional traffic in their downtown, especially trucks. The City also expressed safety concerns with narrow parking

lanes, side view mirrors being clipped off as well as pedestrian crossing difficulties.

Residents in the Towns of Milton and Lima felt that moving the route into their towns to avoid putting a bypass in the Town of Koshkonong is not warranted.

The Wisconsin DNR is concerned about the impacts on high quality wetlands crossed by the most northern bypass alternative.

Property acquisition procedures and relocation assistance program

Right of Way Acquisition

If the selected alternative requires the acquisition of right of way, before any property acquisition activities would be initiated, members of WisDOT's Real Estate staff would contact the property owner to explain the details of the acquisition process and Wisconsin's Eminent Domain Law. Any properties to be acquired would be inspected and appraised by one or more professional appraisers. The property owner would be asked to accompany the appraiser during inspection of the property to be acquired, to assure that its value is recognized in the appraisal. Based upon the appraisal or appraisals made, the fair market value of the property to be acquired would be determined, and that amount would be offered to the owner.

Relocations

Relocation assistance would be made available to anyone displaced by this project. The "Relocation Assistance" brochure made available to you this evening has been prepared to answer many of the general questions frequently asked concerning relocation assistance. Note that in addition to the cost of replacement business locations, additional monies are available to cover moving expenses, increased rental and mortgage payments and interest rates, and any closing costs incurred.

It is emphasized that no person shall be displaced unless a comparable and/or adequate replacement business location has been provided or made available. In the event a relocated person is dissatisfied with the decision as to eligibility for payments or amounts offered under the relocation assistance program, he or she will be promptly advised of the procedure to follow in making an appeal.

For Additional Information:

If you have any additional questions about the project in the coming weeks, you may contact one of the individuals listed here:

Michelle Ellias, Project Manager
WI Dept. of Transportation – Southwest Region
2101 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704-2583
michelle.ellias@dot.state.wi.us
(608) 245-2675

Connie White, Consultant Project Manager
HNTB Corporation
10 East Doty Street, Ste. 615
Madison, WI 53703-3392
cmwhite@hntb.com
(608) 294-5006

Exhibits

The following exhibits are available for viewing at the public hearing tonight.

Alternative 1a	Map showing the Transportation System Management Alternative
Alternative 2b	Map showing Alternative 2b, One-way pair
Alternative 3	Map showing Alternative 3, Rock County N rerouting
Alternative 7	Map showing Alternative 7, near-south bypass of Fort Atkinson
Alternative 7a	Map showing Alternative 7a, far-south bypass of Fort Atkinson
Flyovers of each alternative	Video display showing each alternative from an aerial perspective
Summary of Impacts	A chart summarizing and comparing several of the potential impacts
Purpose and Need	An exhibit of the “purpose and need statement” for the EIS
What is Level of Service?	An exhibit defining “level of service” for traffic congestion
Existing & Planned Land Use	A map showing existing and planned land use in the project area
Participating Agencies	A list of the agencies that were contacted during the preparation of the DEIS
Overview of Environmental Review Process and Analysis of Transportation Alternatives	A flow chart of the environmental review process
Project Time Line	An exhibit showing the current project schedule
Advisory Committee	A list of the Advisory Committee members and the purpose of the committee
Robert Street Typical Sections	A drawing showing typical measurements of a cross section of Robert Street in the City of Fort Atkinson
Main Street Typical Sections	A drawing showing typical measurements of a cross section of Main Street in the City of Fort Atkinson
Proposed Typical Sections	A drawing showing proposed typical measurements for the cross sections of the various roadway alternatives
Existing and Forecast Traffic Exhibits	Maps showing the existing and forecasted traffic numbers for various locations in the study area for each alternative
Farm Severances	A map showing how the bypass Alternatives 7 and 7a would sever large landholdings
Wetlands	Maps showing the location of wetlands in relation to the alternatives
Alternative 2 Renderings	Before and After photo-renderings of Alternative 2 in downtown Fort Atkinson