

**SECTION 4  
PUBLIC REACTION**

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#### 4.01 PUBLIC MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2002

A public meeting was held presenting the South Reliever concept on November 19, 2002, at the Fair Oaks Middle School in Fitchburg. Attendees at the meeting were encouraged to provide comments on the South Reliever. Comment forms and letters were returned from 382 people opposing the South Reliever. Reasons that people were against the South Reliever follow:

- The road will not solve the problem of Verona Road congestion.
- Other alternatives should be explored before considering a South Reliever.
- Verona, Fitchburg, and Madison created the traffic problem, so they should deal with it on their own.
- The road will be a waste of taxpayer money.
- The road will have a negative impact on the environment.
- Alternative transportation methods should be used including buses, rail, and carpooling.
- The road will have a negative impact on farmland.
- The road will destroy the peace and beauty of the area.
- The South Reliever plan is not cost-effective.
- Penalizing the Town of Dunn for good planning.
- Improvements to the Beltline would still be required.
- Cuts towns and farms in half.
- Town shouldn't pay the price for bad planning of other cities and long commuters.

Ten comment forms were returned in favor of the South Reliever. Reasons that people were supportive of the South Reliever follow:

- Build the road, the federal government will pay for 85 percent of the costs, and if we don't use the money here, it will go to some other state.
- The South Reliever concept is a good idea, but we need to try to take less farmland and marsh land and use more city roads.
- Stage 1 and 2 are good ideas, but do not build Stage 3 until traffic increases warrant construction.
- Would provide an alternative route to the Beltline in cases of accidents.
- South Reliever will help Beltline backups and the Beltline/Verona Rd interchange.
- The idea was not adequately considered, it will actually offer more traffic relief than presented.
- Will be valuable as Wisconsin and Madison grows.

#### 4.02 OTHER PUBLIC INPUT

A. Petition Opposing the South Reliever Through The Town of Dunn

A petition was received that opposed the proposed location of the South Reliever. The petition opposed the routing of the South Reliever through the farmlands and wetlands of the Town of Dunn. The petition was signed by 714 people.

B. Form Letter Against the South Reliever Concept

The project team received 98 form letters from people opposing the South Reliever alternative. The letter expressed the writer's objection to the location of the South Reliever through Dunn and Fitchburg. They do not think that Dunn and Fitchburg should have to have a new roadway built through their land to solve other towns' problems. They express concern about traffic safety at the Verona Road and Beltline interchange but do not support the South Reliever as an alternative. They suggest that County M could be improved east of Verona as an alternative to the South Reliever.

C. Position Paper of Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive

A position paper of Kathleen Falk was presented by Ken LePine at the November 12, 2002, public meeting. The paper expressed the County Executive's opposition to the South Reliever. She felt that it would compromise the Lower Mud Lake Resource Protection Area, the Town of Dunn Farmland Protection and Open Space programs, and the Door Creek Wetland. She also expressed her concern that the project could disrupt unique archaeological sites along the proposed route. The County Executive also felt that the project could be a waste of funds during a time of tight budgets.

D. 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin Statement

Ward Lyles presented a statement from the 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin. They feel that the South Reliever does not address the existing Beltline traffic problems and would create traffic problems where they do not currently exist. Constructing an Outer Beltline would induce poor land uses such as sprawling development that would harm communities and natural areas.

E. Statement from John Volker, City of Verona Mayor

The mayor of Verona indicated that the city has concerns about the project's impact on a planned 340-acre industrial and technology park planned east of County PB and County M. The South Reliever would dissect the technology park. Verona officials are also skeptical on just how much traffic would be diverted from Verona Road.

F. Petition from FOLKS (Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society)

The project team received a petition from FOLKS with 44 member signatures stating their opposition to the South Reliever concept. They are concerned about the environmental effects on the Lower Yahara River and the Door Creek Wetlands Resource Protection Areas.

**4.03 RESOURCE AGENCY INPUT**

No formal comment letters were received from any resource agencies. The South Reliever concept was presented to representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection at four technical committee meetings held on July 17; September 26, October 30, and December 4, 2002. Representatives from both agencies verbally expressed extreme concern over the R/W requirements and impacts associated with the South Reliever.