

# staying

FALL 2009 | Wisconsin Department of Transportation

**Connections  
2030**

# CONNECTED

## WisDOT adopts *Connections 2030*

In October 2009, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) formally adopted *Connections 2030*, Wisconsin's long-range statewide multimodal plan. *Connections 2030* addresses all forms of transportation and identifies ways to make all modes work better as an integrated transportation system. The plan establishes policies to help transportation decision-makers when evaluating programs and projects.

*Connections 2030* will help Wisconsin fulfill the state's transportation vision to provide:

*An integrated multimodal transportation system that maximizes the safe and efficient movement of people and products throughout the state, enhancing economic productivity and the quality of Wisconsin's communities while minimizing impacts to the natural environment.*

With the adoption of the plan, WisDOT moves into the plan implementation phase. WisDOT's efforts over the next 20 years will focus on maintaining and enhancing Wisconsin's transportation system



*The Connections 2030 plan was developed to help Wisconsin maintain and enhance its transportation system.*

to support the state's future mobility and economic growth. Over the planning period, WisDOT will:

- Continue to seek sufficient funding
- Seek appropriate statutory changes for transportation programs
- Track performance of the plan to report progress on attaining goals

### WisDOT thanks public

WisDOT extends its appreciation to the many citizens of Wisconsin who attended public meetings or submitted comments during the development of *Connections 2030*. WisDOT also thanks:

- » Federal and state environmental resource agencies and tribal governments for participating in the consultation process.
- » Wisconsin metropolitan planning organizations and Wisconsin regional planning commissions for reviewing the draft plan and corridor maps.

For more information about *Connections 2030*, including copies of the executive summary, full plan and corridor maps, visit the plan Web site at [www.wiconnections2030.gov](http://www.wiconnections2030.gov).

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## WisDOT holds public hearings on *Connections 2030*

WisDOT released the *Connections 2030* final draft plan for public comment on July 24, 2009. The public comment period ended August 31, 2009. During that time, WisDOT held public hearings at six locations throughout the state to present and seek public feedback on the *Connections 2030* final draft plan. The hearings took place in Milwaukee, Madison, Appleton, Stevens Point, Eau Claire and La Crosse.

Each public hearing offered participants the opportunity to submit oral or written testimony on the final draft plan. In addition, participants could talk to WisDOT staff and view an automated presentation on the final draft plan that summarized the changes made based on public comments received during the previous comment period.

More than 200 people attended the hearings and 51 submitted oral

testimony. In addition, 103 people submitted written testimony during the public comment period.

At the close of the public comment period, WisDOT staff reviewed and analyzed the written and oral testimony. Public comments covered a range of topics, with the majority of comments focused on intercity passenger rail. Other comments focused on numerous topics including highways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit and environmental concerns.

Intercity passenger rail received the largest number of comments. Overall, those who commented support improved intercity passenger rail and called for WisDOT to be more active with its rail planning activities. Many individuals also commented on the proposed intercity passenger rail routes. Individuals expressed a need for a route through La Crosse, a route through Eau Claire, or a route through both cities. Numerous comments also noted that WisDOT should not delay implementation of intercity passenger rail to Green Bay.



WisDOT held six public hearing on the final draft of *Connections 2030*. Over 200 people attended the public hearings.

### *Connections 2030* plan themes

Although *Connections 2030* addresses all modes of transportation, it is not organized by individual modes. Instead, the plan is organized around seven themes that provide the basis for the plan's policies. The themes are:

- Preserve Wisconsin's transportation system
- Promote transportation safety
- Foster Wisconsin's economic growth
- Provide mobility and transportation choice
- Promote transportation efficiencies
- Preserve Wisconsin's quality of life
- Promote transportation security

These seven themes are interrelated to promote an integrated multimodal transportation system.



# State begins implementing *Connections 2030*

Implementing *Connections 2030* means putting all the plan policies into action. To optimize existing and proposed future transportation assets and to realize the plan's vision, WisDOT will consider department priorities in the context of short-term, long-term and ongoing actions through 2030:

- Short-term – WisDOT will continue to focus on key priorities and initiatives that support the state's economy and continue to address transportation safety
- Long-term – WisDOT will build on early implementation efforts and expand efforts to address unfunded needs
- Entire planning period – WisDOT will seek funding to fully implement the plan

Since no single entity has authority over the entire transportation system, implementing the plan will take coordination and cooperation among many interests and business areas, including the federal government, local



*WisDOT will continue to focus on key priorities and initiatives that support the state's economy and continue to address transportation safety.*

governments, tribes, transportation providers and the private sector.

WisDOT will use several tools to implement the plan, such as value engineering, and project scheduling and funding. One key tool WisDOT will use in implementing *Connections 2030* is the corridor management approach. Corridor management considers the transportation system from a corridor perspective. This approach:

- Is comprehensive
  - » Extends beyond the highway to consider adjacent land uses

- » Addresses multimodal needs and issues

- Promotes a long-term corridor view (up to 30 years)
  - » Preserves and enhances existing services and functions
  - » Identifies investment priorities
- Is a collaborative process
  - » Encourages coordination and partnerships between government interests, communities and others
- Links *Connections 2030* state-level policies to regional and corridor level implementation activities

## Tracking *Connections 2030* plan development progress

### PHASE 1 early planning

- Define scope and focus
- Identify key issues
- Complete survey
- Hold stakeholder meetings
- Conduct focus groups

### PHASE 2 pre draft plan

- Draft policies
- Initiate public review
- Hold environmental/tribal consultation meetings

### PHASE 3 draft plan

- Release final draft plan
- Revise plan as necessary
- Hold statewide public meetings
- Conduct targeted outreach meetings
- Provide stakeholder group meetings

### PHASE 4 final plan

- Revise as necessary
- Adopt final plan
- Conduct public hearings



**Connections 2030  
implementation**

**WE ARE HERE**



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## Connections 2030 addresses federal planning factors

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires the statewide transportation planning process to consider eight factors:

- Support economic vitality
- Increase the safety of the transportation system
- Increase the security of the transportation system
- Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements

and planned growth and economic development patterns

- Enhance integration and connectivity of the transportation system
- Promote efficient system management and operation
- Emphasize preserving the existing transportation system

*Connections 2030* addresses each of these federal planning factors. In addition, the process WisDOT used to develop *Connections 2030* satisfies the federal planning requirements under SAFETEA-LU.