

**WIS 26 Watertown Bypass  
(Johnson Creek to Watertown)  
Jefferson and Dodge Counties**

Preliminary Design Phase  
Public Information Meeting  
April 6, 2006



WisDOT Project I.D. 1390-04-02



**Welcome** to today's public information meeting on the preliminary design phase for the WIS 26 Johnson Creek to Watertown segment in Jefferson and Dodge counties. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Introduce the engineering design team
- Present the preliminary design plan for expanding WIS 26 to a four lane facility and constructing a bypass around the west side of Watertown
- Provide information on proposed property access and local road treatments
- Answer questions and obtain your comments on the proposed improvements

The project begins just south of Baneck Lane and ends at County Q north of the city of Watertown (see map). Proposed improvements are described on page 2.

Representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Madison regional office and their consultants are here to listen to your thoughts on the proposed improvements. Please review the maps, ask questions and share your ideas, suggestions, or concerns. If you would like to provide written comments, please fill out the comment sheet at the back of this handout and leave it with us today or mail it after the meeting.

Thank you for participating in this important project.



## **Project background**

The initial corridor planning phase for 48 miles of WIS 26 in Rock, Jefferson and Dodge counties was completed in summer 2005 with a final environmental impact statement (EIS) approved by the Federal Highway Administration. The final EIS identified a preferred alternative that would widen existing WIS 26 to a four lane highway and provide bypasses around the cities of Milton, Jefferson and Watertown.

The project has now progressed to the preliminary design phase that involves refining the preferred alternative developed in the corridor planning phase and preparing a more detailed plan. After the preliminary plans have been completed, real estate acquisition will begin, followed by three years of roadway construction.

## **Proposed improvements**

Existing WIS 26 will be widened to four lanes from just south of Baneck Lane to Turf Road. At Turf Road future WIS 26 will bypass the city of Watertown to the west and rejoin existing WIS 26 north of the city near County Q. The project also includes a new WIS 16 extension that starts near the Union Pacific Railroad on the north side of the city and continues west to a new interchange with the WIS 26 bypass. WIS 26 will be a four lane highway with managed access such as relocated or consolidated driveways and limited turning movements at some local road intersections. The bypass will have controlled access from three interchanges. There will also be a multi-use trail along the west side of WIS 26 from Baneck Lane to High Road just south of Ebenezer Drive.

## **Design refinements**

Key design refinements that have been made since the initial corridor planning phase include the following:

- The existing County Y segment between the UP Railroad and Rock River will be moved closer to the railroad tracks. This segment will connect with the proposed frontage road. The alignment shift eliminates the need for two bridges on the WIS 26 bypass and makes the frontage road the through traffic movement.
- The Baneck Lane and Ebenezer Drive intersections with the WIS 26 bypass will have restricted turning movements (right in and right out only).
- The WIS 26 median at Emerald Drive and County Q will be widened to provide additional storage room for farm machinery and other vehicles.
- Proposed interchange configurations at the WIS 26 bypass and WIS 16, and at WIS 16 and old WIS 26 will be modified to provide smoother traffic operations for local and through traffic.
- County A and Silver Creek Road will go over the WIS 26 bypass.
- A multi-use path will be provided along the west side of WIS 26 from Baneck Lane to High Road.



- The proposed alignment shift for existing County Y, side road design at the WIS 26/Emerald and WIS 26/Ebenezer intersections, and the multi-use path layout will result in additional residential displacements.

## Upcoming activities

Based on input from today's public information meeting and additional engineering/environmental evaluation, the project team will continue to refine the preliminary design plan. Additional field work will be needed as the project progresses including engineering surveys, soil borings and archaeological investigations. Cooperation in allowing project staff to enter private property will be greatly appreciated.

Another public meeting will be held prior to finalizing the preliminary design plan. The next meeting will be announced in area newspapers and through a newsletter.

## Schedule

The proposed timeline for completing the preliminary design is as follows:

Baneck Lane to Turf Road—early spring 2008

Turf Road to WIS 19—spring 2007

WIS 19 to County Q—early winter 2007

Construction is targeted as follows:

Baneck Lane to Turf Road—summer 2010 through fall 2011

Turf Road to WIS 19—summer 2009 through fall 2010

WIS 19 to County Q—spring 2010 through summer 2011

## Project contacts

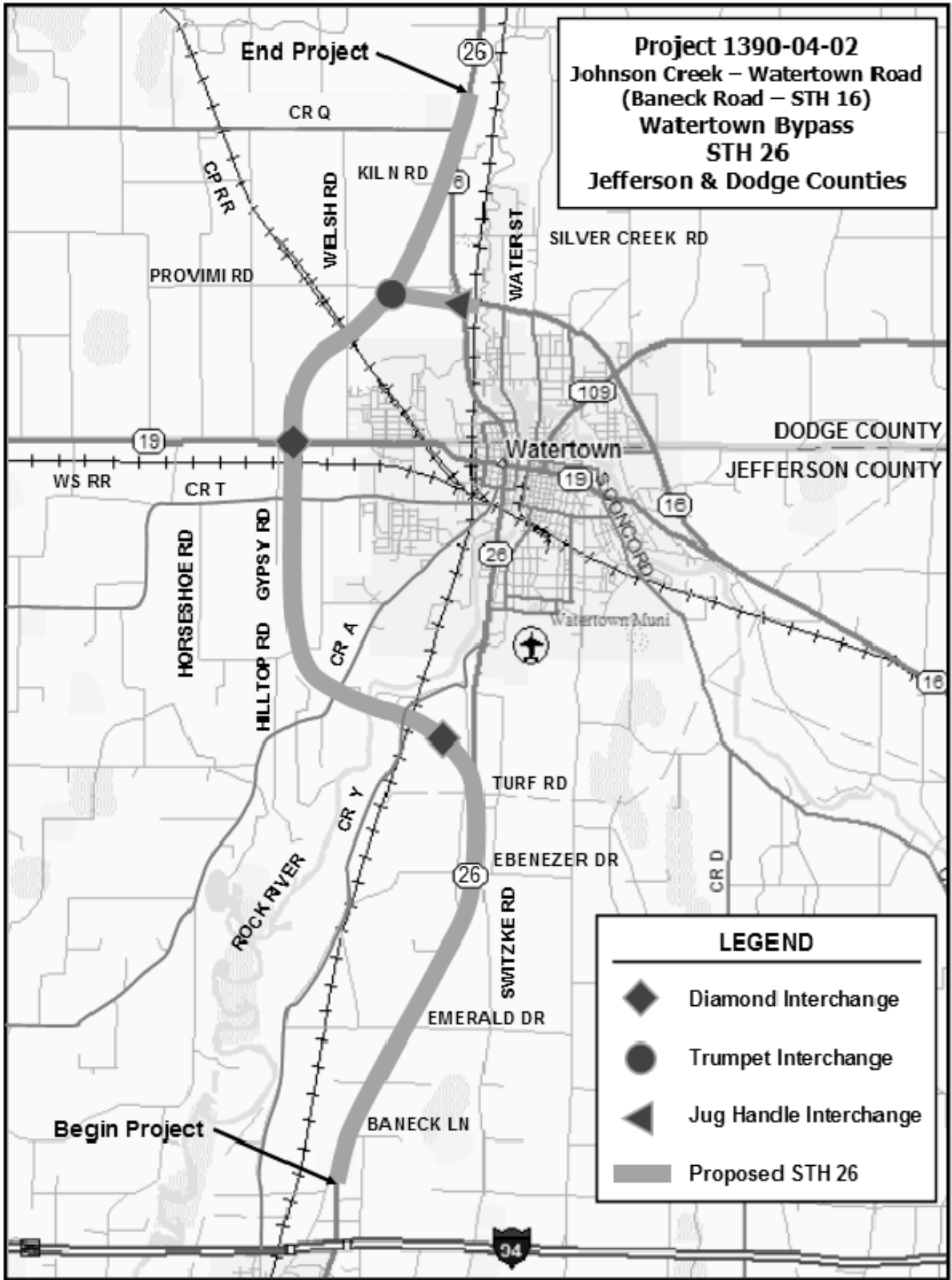
If you have any questions about the proposed WIS 26 improvements, contact one of the following project team members:

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## WIS 26 Corridor Website

[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/wis26corridor/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/wis26corridor/index.htm)





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