



**Wisconsin Department of Transportation**  
**US 12/18 Freeway Conversion Study**  
**I-39/90 to County N**  
**Dane County**



**Public Information Meeting #3**  
**November 19, 2013**

Welcome to the Public Information Meeting for the US 12/18 freeway conversion study. At today's meeting you will see exhibits of the alternatives, and we'll discuss the impacts of each alternative and identify which alternatives are being recommended. We appreciate your input and ask that you take a moment to complete a comment form and either drop it off before you leave or mail it to the address on the back of the form.

**Study Overview**

The freeway conversion study begins just east of I-39/90 (the "Beltline Interchange") and continues east along US 12/18 for approximately 3.5 miles to the County N interchange. This study is being completed in conjunction with the I-39/90 expansion project, but will have separate meetings and a different timeline.

The expansion of I-39/90 from 4 lanes to 6 lanes from the Illinois state line to US 12/18 will increase safety and mobility through the corridor. In addition to the mainline work, alternatives are being developed to improve the safety and capacity of the Beltline Interchange. These improvements may have an affect on the design options at the west end of the study corridor and traffic volumes along US 12/18, which is why the corridor is being studied at this time.

The study involves developing alternatives to complete a freeway conversion and assess the environmental, economic, and social impacts of converting US 12/18 from a four-lane expressway to a four-lane freeway. The final products of the study will be an environmental document and 30 percent preliminary plans. It should be noted that this is a study to evaluate the impacts of converting US 12/18 to a freeway. No construction activities are planned at this time.

Conversion to a freeway would require the elimination of at-grade intersections and limit access to and from US 12/18 to interchanges. The study involves evaluating additional interchanges, grade-separated overpasses and frontage roads to connect local roadways without interruption to future freeway traffic flow.

**Data Gathering**

The data gathering phase of the study has been completed. Information was gathered regarding current and future traffic volumes, crash data, environmental constraints and how the highway affects land use patterns and the general economics of the area.

**Develop Alternatives & Identify Impacts**

Using the data collected and input gathered at public and local officials meetings, alternatives were developed for potential improvements to the highway. The study team has further evaluated those alternatives to determine preliminary costs, right-of-way needs and environmental and local impacts and will present that information tonight.

Next, the study team will begin preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that compares the impacts of the alternatives; as well as evaluating the "no-build" alternative that assumes no improvements are made to the highway.

## **Public Involvement**

Continuous exchange of information with the public and local officials is essential throughout the development of this study to better understand area transportation and access needs. Previous public information meetings were held in July 2012 and April 2013 to introduce the project and study team, introduce preliminary freeway conversion alternatives and to gather input from local residents. This is the third public information meetings being held during the study.

## **Study Schedule**

Public Meeting #1 (introduce study) ✓ .....	July 31, 2012
Public Meeting #2 (discuss alternatives) ✓ .....	April 24, 2013
Public Meeting #3 (discuss impacts and recommendations) .....	November 19, 2013
Refine alternatives and impacts .....	Winter 2013-14
Final Environmental Assesment.....	Fall 2014
30% Plan Submittal and Study Conclusion .....	Fall 2014

## **Study Team Contact Information**

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## **Website Information**

US 12/18 Study Information:

<http://www1.wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/1218conv/default.aspx>

I-39/90 Corridor Expansion Information:

<http://projects.511wi.gov/i-39-90/>