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October 15, 2019

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Attn: Jeff Berens, Planning Engineer  
2101 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704

**Re: Village of McFarland Response to Proposed US Highway 51 Corridor Study**

Dear Mr. Berens,

I am writing to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on behalf of the Village Board representing the interests of the residents of the Village of McFarland regarding the proposed plan that has been prepared through the US Highway 51 Corridor Study. This study (and many before it) concerns the planning effort to reconstruct US Highway 51 through the Village and places elsewhere. Ultimately, the work outlined in this planning document will lead to the design and construction of the project.

That is why it is critical now that the Village Board make its voice heard in this process through the submittal of this letter to outline our concerns about the present plans for the project. These have been outlined for you previously in a message from our Village Administrator sent on September 9<sup>th</sup> to which you responded on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Your response suggests that our concerns are either not valid to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation or otherwise not important to be considered within the project plan.

We will not accept such response for this project in our Community. The following issues need to be addressed within the project planning currently underway in order to gain our support:

- WisDOT has not discussed with local officials about the inclusion of roundabouts as well as other alternatives on Siggelkow Road, a local road.
  - More emphasis should be provided in the project planning as it relates to safe and accessible pedestrian interactions with the highway as well as what pedestrian enhancements or improvements should be recommended.
  - WisDOT will cost share in the installation of sidewalk of this project if not pickup the full cost of this improvement. Local share of sidewalk construction at 100% is not agreeable especially in the face of a likely Federal mandate for their inclusion.
  - Other forms of transportation through the Village need to be further evaluated and included (i.e. bike lanes).
  - More discussion and planning needs to happen now regarding stormwater management as a result of this project and not wait until design phase.
  - The Village remains opposed to the current speed especially when WisDOT proposes no alternatives for pedestrians in a dense urban environment.
  - Loss of access at Yahara Drive and near Farwell Street is too restricting. The Village is not agreeable to the access lost to local businesses such as Kwik Trip and Culvers. Access in all of these locations should be maintained.
  - Farwell Street is a local road under local control, yet WisDOT continues to make plans to improve it without consultation with local officials. The present plan for Farwell Street and its interaction with US Highway 51 is not agreeable nor functionally realistic.
  - The planned bridge span over Yahara River is a concern related to flooding and that it be demonstrated the plan to replace this bridge will be done so in concert with best practices for stormwater management. Furthermore the Village wishes to evaluate a path crossing under the bridge to provide for a safe crossing under the highway into Babcock Park from Yahara Drive.
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This again is a summary list of our initial concerns with the project as presently proposed, there may be more forthcoming as the planning process continues into design in the future. If these concerns are not accounted for in some fashion within the planning phase, it will be difficult to impossible for the Village of McFarland to support this project. Further, we will by any means necessary continue to ensure our voice is heard on this project as it affects our Community and its residents.

I would encourage you to contact Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator at (608) 838-2303 or [matt.schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:matt.schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us) to setup a meeting between Village Staff and myself to begin to address these issues and discuss how they will be accounted for within the project planning going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Czebotar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brad" clearly legible and the last name "Czebotar" written in a more stylized, connected script.

Brad Czebotar  
Village President

Cc: State Senator Mark Miller, Senate District 16  
State Representative Jimmy Anderson, Assembly District 47  
Craig Thompson, WisDOT Secretary  
Dave Vieth, WisDOT Southwest Region Director  
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission  
✓ Madison Area Transportation Planning Board  
Mayor Tim Swadley, City of Stoughton  
James Hessling, Public Works Director  
Brian Berquist, Village Engineer  
Matthew G. Schuenke, Village Administrator

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