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October 23, 2020

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

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

Dear Mr. Berens,

On October 15, 2019, President Czebotar, on behalf of the McFarland Village Board, wrote you regarding their initial response to the proposed plans for the US Highway 51 Corridor Study (letter enclosed for reference). On December 12, 2019 we met to review and discuss the contents of this letter. It appears some of our concerns have been addressed.

Based on previous discussions we have had to date, this letter serves as an update to the letter sent in 2019. It remains our understanding that WisDOT desires to complete the Environmental Document for this project in order to move it forward to design and ultimately construction. We reiterate the points listed below so it's clear as to our positions on a number of items as the project progresses.

The following positions have been raised and need to be addressed with the project planning including but not limited to the following:

- The Village understands based on comments from WisDOT that all options remain available for ingress and egress of off ramps at the Siggelkow Road interchange. The Village desires to have input on the final controls for this intersection and does not outright accept roundabouts without further consideration of other options.

- Emphasis should continue to be provided in the project planning regarding safe pedestrian crossings at all intersections. The Village desires to have input on the final pedestrian accommodations and controls for these locations as part of ongoing planning and design for the project. WisDOT will at the very least cost share in these improvements as is appropriate.
- The Village understands that WisDOT will cost share at a ratio of 80 (State-Fed)/20 (Local) for the installation of sidewalk as part of this improvement. We will consider this as part of our discussion to enter into a State Municipal Agreement where appropriate.
- The Village continues to insist that bike lanes need to be included with the project as another form of transportation. It remains the Village's position that the availability of existing right of way is sufficient to support this without the need to acquire more right of way for this purpose.
- More discussion and planning is needed regarding stormwater management as a result of this project.
- The Village remains opposed to the current speed especially without further discussion and commitment from WisDOT on pedestrian safety.
- Upon review of the current plans, Yahara Drive has been reopened to full access with the addition of a dedicated turn lane. The Village is supportive of this change.
- The present design for the Farwell Street intersection and the proposed access closures remain far too restrictive and problematic. The Village is not agreeable to the access lost to local businesses such as Kwik Trip and Culvers. We are in receipt of the traffic study information shared on March 18, 2020 but more options need to be considered to assist in alleviating the issues at this location. The solution pushes all of the traffic problems from the highway onto the local road very close to the intersection for those two very active businesses. ***This is remains the largest disagreement we have with the current plans and needs to be further rectified.*** Access in all of these locations should be maintained. The present plan for Farwell Street and its interaction with US Highway 51 is not agreeable nor functionally realistic.

- The Village understands WisDOT is working with Dane County on the planned bridge span and is making accommodations to ensure its width is appropriate to alleviate flooding concerns.
- The Village still wishes to pursue, at least study, an underpass within the bridge spanning the Yahara River to provide for safe pedestrian access under the highway.

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. There are a number of issues that WisDOT Staff has worked with the Village on in the last year to resolve, and we do appreciate these efforts. There are, however, outstanding concerns of key importance to the Village that need additional work. If these concerns cannot be accounted for in some fashion within the planning phase, it remains difficult to impossible for the Village of McFarland to support this project as presented. 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.

Please review and contact me within any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke

Matthew G. Schuenke, Village Administrator

Cc: Brad Czebotar, Village President
McFarland Village Board of Trustees
State Senator Mark Miller, Senate District 16
State Representative Jimmy Anderson, Assembly District 47
Craig Thompson, WisDOT Secretary
Dave Vieth, WisDOT Southwest Region Director
Mayor Tim Swadley, City of Stoughton
James Hessling, Public Works Director
Brian Berquist, Village Engineer

Lamers, Brandon - DOT

From: Berens, Jeff - DOT
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2020 1:41 PM
To: DOT DTSD US 51 Stoughton to McFarland EA
Subject: FW: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Correspondence - Village of McFarland
Attachments: Letter to WisDOT regarding US 51 Planning 10232020.pdf

From: Matt Schuenke <Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Berens, Jeff - DOT <Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov>
Cc: Hoelker, Michael - DOT <Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Petersen, Joan <Joan.Petersen@strand.com>; Brad Czebotar <Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us>; Sen. Miller - LEGIS <Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep. Anderson - LEGIS <Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov>; DOT EXEC Secretary's Ofc <DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov>; DOT DTSD SW Region <swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov>; Tim Swadley <tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us>; Jim Hessling <Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us>; Brian Berquist <brian@tcengineers.net>
Subject: RE: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

Jeff,

Please find attached a letter from the Village of McFarland as our updated public comments on the project. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Matt

Matthew G. Schuenke
Village Administrator
Village of McFarland

(608) 838-3153

From: Berens, Jeff - DOT <Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Brad Czebotar <Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us>; Matt Schuenke <Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us>; Hougan, Maria P - MUN <clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org>; Gerald Mandli <mandli@co.dane.wi.us>; edmond.minihan@gmail.com; Hasslinger, Cathy - MUN <chasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us>; Ben Kollenbroich <bkollenbroich@town.dunn.wi.us>; clerk@townofdunkirk.com; Tim Swadley <tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us>; chair@town.rutland.wi.us; clerk@town.rutland.wi.us; Hanewall, Julie - MUN <jhanewall@townofalbion.net>
Cc: Hoelker, Michael - DOT <Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov>; Petersen, Joan <Joan.Petersen@strand.com>
Subject: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has planned a virtual public involvement meeting (PIM) for the US 51 Stoughton to McFarland study. A pre-recorded slide presentation and study exhibits will be available for public viewing on October 6, 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update and gather input as the study moves toward completion.

I have attached a US 51 summary document that provides general information on the study and the virtual meeting. I have also attached the postcard that is being mailed out to project stakeholders. WisDOT appreciates your interest in the study and looks forward to your input.

Please contact me with any questions about the meeting or the study. Thank you.

Jeff Berens, P.E.
Major Studies Project Manager
WisDOT SW Region - Madison Office
(608) 245-2656

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