

## Lamers, Brandon - DOT

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**From:** Matt Schuenke <Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2020 8:25 AM  
**To:** Berens, Jeff - DOT  
**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT; Lamers, Brandon - DOT; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT; Brown, Joel R - DOT; Petersen, Joan; Brad Czebotar; Sen.Miller - LEGIS; Rep.Anderson - LEGIS; DOT EXEC Secretary's Ofc; DOT DTSD SW Region; Tim Swadley; Jim Hessling; Brian Berquist; Theisen, Steven R - DOT  
**Subject:** RE: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

Good morning,

I just want to record for everyone's benefit that there has been no response by WisDOT regarding the message below. I can only assume as a result of this nonresponse that WisDOT intends to advance the Environmental Document for USH 51 without properly taking into account input from the Village of McFarland as it travels through our Community. We do not support this effort nor the plan presented. WisDOT should postpone submission of the Environmental Document until these issues can be resolved.

We would rather be partners in this project but it appears that is not a shared approach. We will continue to demonstrate and persist our opposition to this project by other means until our voice can be heard.

Thanks,  
Matt

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**From:** Matt Schuenke  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:44 AM  
**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>; Theisen, Steven R - DOT <Steven.Theisen@dot.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

Jeff,

The Village is willing to meet with WisDOT if it materially affects the preferred alternative prior to its filing with FHWA. It remains unclear to me if all of our concerns are addressed in the plan to be presented or not, and with the very limited interaction between us again it's hard to be able to see that.

I appreciate your description of the process and the phone call from Brandon, but the truth of the matter is that the preferred alternative being advanced at the end of this month was prepared with little to no input from the Village. Brandon stated that we'll connect more in the design process, but the plan is in place by that point and decisions made without our involvement. Again, using items such as the plan for the Farwell intersection as an example, a layout for this intersection is being included in the EA without our input or consideration of other options. We cannot agree to this layout and the changes associated with it as it creates major traffic issues for all involved. As such this layout gets locked in to the process and deviating from this later becomes impossible. That has been my experience

with how WisDOT and FHWA administers an EA after it receives its FONSI. We will remain in opposition until it can be demonstrated that the plan will adequately address the issues we have raised.

If this cannot be done we'll likely need to request the Public Hearing when it comes out, engage the Community and local stakeholders in providing additional feedback as well as further contact Central Office and our Representatives to properly address the points we've raised with this plan.

We could be made available as early as next week. Let us know what dates work for you.

Thanks,  
Matt

Matthew G. Schuenke  
Village Administrator  
Village of McFarland

(608) 838-3153

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**From:** Berens, Jeff - DOT <[Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, November 6, 2020 7:04 AM

**To:** Matt Schuenke <[Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us)>

**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Petersen, Joan <[Joan.Petersen@strand.com](mailto:Joan.Petersen@strand.com)>; Brad Czebotar <[Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Sen. Miller - LEGIS <[Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; Rep. Anderson - LEGIS <[Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; DOT EXEC Secretary's Ofc <[DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT DTSD SW Region <[swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov](mailto:swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov)>; Tim Swadley <[tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us](mailto:tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us)>; Jim Hessling <[Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Brian Berquist <[brian@tcengineers.net](mailto:brian@tcengineers.net)>; Theisen, Steven R - DOT <[Steven.Theisen@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Steven.Theisen@dot.wi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

Good morning Matt,

WisDOT anticipates the US 51 Stoughton to McFarland Environmental Assessment (EA) will be signed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in late November or early December 2020. Once the EA is signed by FHWA, there will be an approximate 30-day availability period for stakeholders to review and submit comments on the document.

During the EA document availability period, WisDOT will offer the opportunity to request a public hearing. A public hearing is a more formal event than a public involvement meeting that provides agencies and the public full opportunity to express opinions about the proposed project. If a public hearing is requested, it is anticipated to be held in February 2021, and the document availability period will be extended until that time. WisDOT will accept comment during the duration of the document availability period.

After the document availability period has ended, WisDOT will review all comments received and address any issues or concerns that are submitted. WisDOT will then work towards completing an addendum to the EA, which FHWA will review to determine whether the preferred alternative has a significant impact to the environment. If FHWA determines that the project does not have a significant impact to the environment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued. At that point, the study will be completed, and the project can move forward into the final design process. If FHWA considers the impacts significant, further study in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required. Based on analysis and public and agency comments to-date, WisDOT anticipates that FHWA will sign the FONSI in Spring 2021.

As we have previously discussed, items the village of McFarland has identified concerns about will continue to be evaluated and refined as part of the final design process. During the final design process, WisDOT will continue to meet the Village to address comments and issues.

Please provide dates Village staff would be available to meet, and the region will work to schedule a virtual meeting with village representatives to further discuss concerns and the anticipated EA and final design schedule.

WisDOT looks forward to continuing working with the Village on this project.

Sincerely,

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

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**From:** Matt Schuenke <[Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** Berens, Jeff - DOT <[Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Petersen, Joan <[Joan.Petersen@strand.com](mailto:Joan.Petersen@strand.com)>; Brad Czebotar <[Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Sen.Miller - LEGIS <[Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; Rep.Anderson - LEGIS <[Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; DOT EXEC Secretary's Ofc <[DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT DTSD SW Region <[swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov](mailto:swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov)>; Tim Swadley <[tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us](mailto:tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us)>; Jim Hessling <[Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Brian Berquist <[brian@tcengineers.net](mailto:brian@tcengineers.net)>; Theisen, Steven R - DOT <[Steven.Theisen@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Steven.Theisen@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

Jeff,

Will we be able to meet before or after the Environmental Plan is submitted to Federal Highway for approval?

Its not clear exactly what the next steps are in the process given the adjustments made in the schedule to date. Our preference is that we meet before given that there are aspects of the plan that do not adequately address our concerns and if submitted for approval, then the design cannot properly address these aspects which would again elicit an elevated response from the Village to oppose this project. Again though, where we are at within the schedule I'm not as clear on at the present.

Thanks,  
Matt

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**From:** Berens, Jeff - DOT <[Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Matt Schuenke <[Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us)>  
**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Petersen, Joan <[Joan.Petersen@strand.com](mailto:Joan.Petersen@strand.com)>; Brad Czebotar <[Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Sen.Miller - LEGIS <[Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; Rep.Anderson - LEGIS <[Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; DOT EXEC Secretary's Ofc <[DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT DTSD SW Region <[swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov](mailto:swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov)>; Tim Swadley

<[tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us](mailto:tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us)>; Jim Hessling <[Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Brian Berquist <[brian@tcengineers.net](mailto:brian@tcengineers.net)>;  
Theisen, Steven R - DOT <[Steven.Theisen@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Steven.Theisen@dot.wi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: 5845-06-03 US 51 Stoughton to McFarland: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

Hello Matt,

Thank you for providing comments on behalf of the village of McFarland regarding the US 51 Stoughton to McFarland corridor study.

As mentioned in the Village letter dated October 23, 2020, WisDOT and Village representatives met in December 2019 to discuss the Villages' concerns with some of the design aspects of Alternative H, the preferred alternative for the corridor. WisDOT also provided additional information to the Village in March 2020.

Please know safety is a top priority for WisDOT, and we look forward to continuing to work with the village of McFarland through the final design process to resolve any outstanding issues. We will reach out in the future to schedule a meeting(s) to further discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

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

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**From:** Matt Schuenke <[Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 1:48 PM

**To:** Berens, Jeff - DOT <[Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov)>

**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>;  
Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Petersen, Joan  
<[Joan.Petersen@strand.com](mailto:Joan.Petersen@strand.com)>; Brad Czebotar <[Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Sen.Miller - LEGIS  
<[Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; Rep.Anderson - LEGIS <[Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; DOT EXEC Secretary's  
Ofc <[DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTEXECSecretarysOFC@dot.wi.gov)>; DOT DTSD SW Region <[swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov](mailto:swr.dtsd@dot.wi.gov)>; Tim Swadley  
<[tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us](mailto:tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us)>; Jim Hessling <[Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Jim.Hessling@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Brian Berquist <[brian@tcengineers.net](mailto: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

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**From:** Berens, Jeff - DOT <[Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jeff.Berens@dot.wi.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 10:48 AM

**To:** Brad Czebotar <[Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Brad.Czebotar@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Matt Schuenke <[Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:Matt.Schuenke@mcfarland.wi.us)>; Hougan, Maria P - MUN <[clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org](mailto:clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org)>; Gerald Mandli <[mandli@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:mandli@co.dane.wi.us)>; [edmond.minihan@gmail.com](mailto:edmond.minihan@gmail.com); Hasslinger, Cathy - MUN <[chasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us](mailto:chasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us)>; Ben Kollenbroich <[bkollenbroich@town.dunn.wi.us](mailto:bkollenbroich@town.dunn.wi.us)>; [clerk@townofdunkirk.com](mailto:clerk@townofdunkirk.com); Tim Swadley <[tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us](mailto:tswadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us)>; [chair@town.rutland.wi.us](mailto:chair@town.rutland.wi.us); [clerk@town.rutland.wi.us](mailto:clerk@town.rutland.wi.us); Hanewall, Julie - MUN <[jhanewall@townofalbion.net](mailto:jhanewall@townofalbion.net)>  
**Cc:** Hoelker, Michael - DOT <[Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Hoelker@dot.wi.gov)>; Lamers, Brandon - DOT <[Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Brandon.Lamers@dot.wi.gov)>; Grimes, Jennifer - DOT <[Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Grimes@dot.wi.gov)>; Brown, Joel R - DOT <[Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Joel.Brown@dot.wi.gov)>; Petersen, Joan <[Joan.Petersen@strand.com](mailto: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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