

PAGE **1**

WisDOT urges citizens to submit DEIS comments

Public hearing scheduled Nov. 29

PAGE **2**

Study area map with alternatives

PAGE **3**

Review the DEIS on paper or online

Selecting 'preferred' alternative is next step for WisDOT

PAGE **4**

Project time line

Public hearing invitation

## WisDOT to ask citizens for input



*A WisDOT official addresses citizens during a public information meeting at Luther Elementary School in Fort Atkinson.*

Public participation is vital in guiding highway planning decisions. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation recognizes the value of public participation in the planning process. No one knows the US 12 study area better than the people who live, work and drive there.

Especially during review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) — a document that details the benefits, impacts and costs of highway improvement alternatives —

**Page 3:** How you can review a copy of the DEIS

WisDOT encourages and respects citizens' input as the project team proceeds with its selection of a preferred alternative (see

Page 3). Experience shows that highway plans generated with public support and guidance are good highway investments created in the best interests of the people.

[continued, Page 2](#)

### TO CONTACT US

**Michelle Ellias**

WisDOT project manager  
Phone: (608) 245-2675

E-mail: [michelle.ellias@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:michelle.ellias@dot.state.wi.us)

**Connie White**

HNTB Corp. project manager  
Phone: (608) 294-5006

E-mail: [cnwhite@hntb.com](mailto:cnwhite@hntb.com)

**Project Web site:**

[www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/d1/us12fort/index.htm](http://www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/d1/us12fort/index.htm)

## Citizens invited to public hearing on Nov. 29

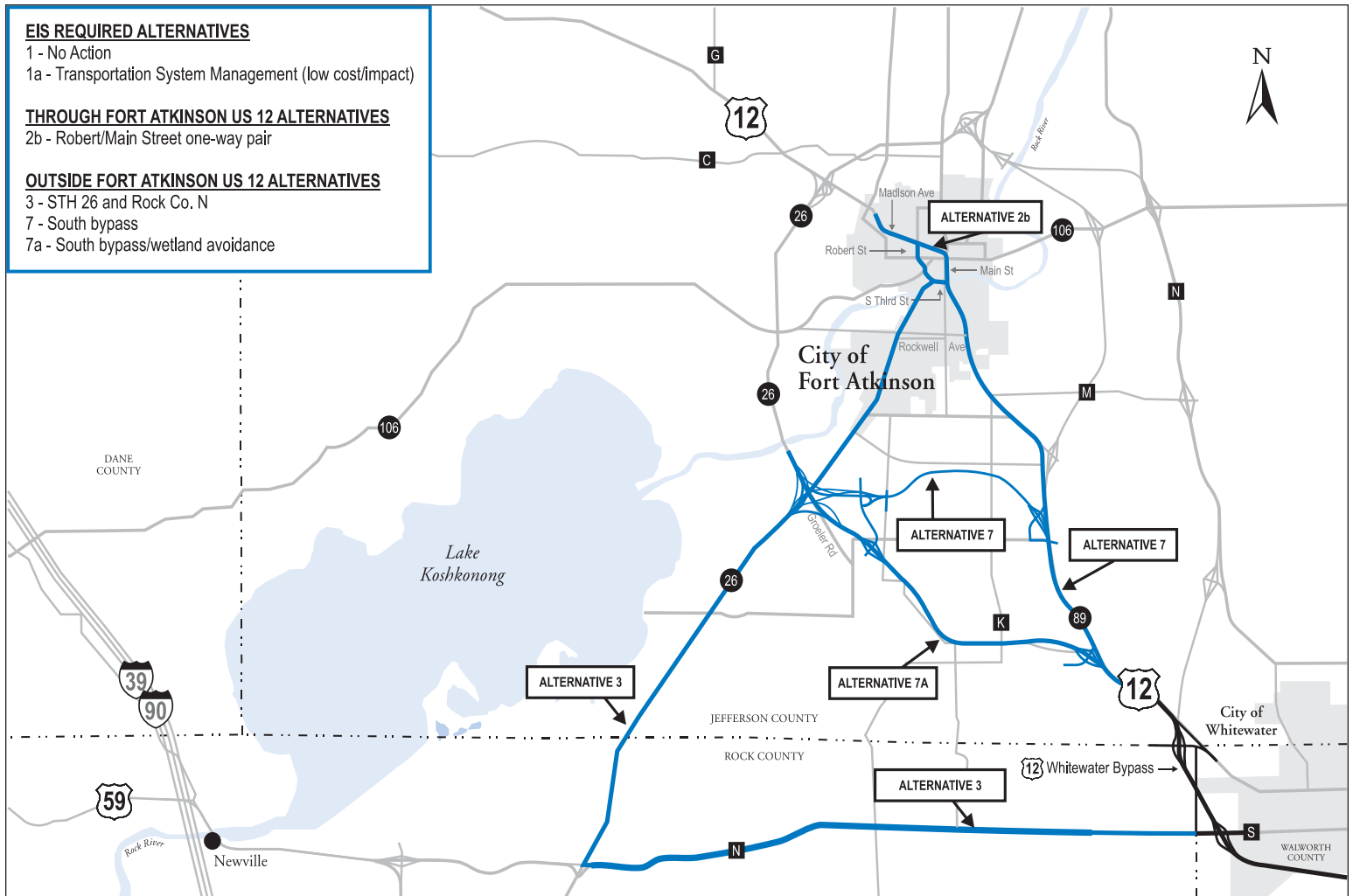
WisDOT has scheduled a public hearing to receive citizens' testimony on the US 12 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the various alternatives under consideration.

WisDOT will host the hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2005, at Luther Elementary School, 205 Park St. in Fort Atkinson. The hearing, which will be in open house format, will begin

at 6:30 p.m. with a presentation at 7 p.m. Residents, business owners and local officials will have the opportunity to review the alternatives, discuss the project with WisDOT representatives and formally submit comments.

Before the hearing begins, interested people will be able to view maps, exhibits and other information about the alternatives.

## Study area and alternatives



Continued from Page 1

The article titled “Review DEIS on paper or online,” on Page 3 of this newsletter includes information about how citizens can share their input about the US 12 project alternatives.

The US 12 project began in March 2001, when WisDOT officials initiated the US 12 Needs Assessment Study to identify long-term transportation problems along the corridor. The assessment found that regional mobility demands; safety and congestion problems; and public support were primary reasons to begin looking at improvement alternatives for US 12 and to study and compare the alternatives’ impacts.

The map above shows the alternatives studied in the DEIS. WisDOT initially examined 18 alternatives. After gathering input from

***The DEIS provides a comparative assessment of the alternatives and will assist decision makers in selecting a preferred alternative.***

agencies and the public, WisDOT selected six of the alternatives for detailed study in this EIS. The alternatives include:

- “No Build” alternative.
- A Transportation System Management alternative, or TSM, which would involve implementing low-impact, operational improvements.
- An alternative that remains on alignment,

changing the existing split route into a one-way pair.

- An alternative that reroutes US 12 to Rock County N.
- Two alternatives that would construct a bypass to the south of Fort Atkinson.

Detailed descriptions of the alternatives can be found in the DEIS and will be presented at the public hearing on Nov. 29.

A preferred alternative has not yet been selected. The DEIS provides a comparative assessment of the alternatives and will assist decision makers in selecting a preferred alternative. The selected alternative will be presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, or FEIS, after WisDOT evaluates partnering agencies’ comments and public input and testimony.



## Environmental justice: Equity sought in transportation planning

Public involvement is for absolutely everyone. WisDOT is committed to equity and fairness, and it wants to ensure that no one is excluded from the US 12 project decision-making process.

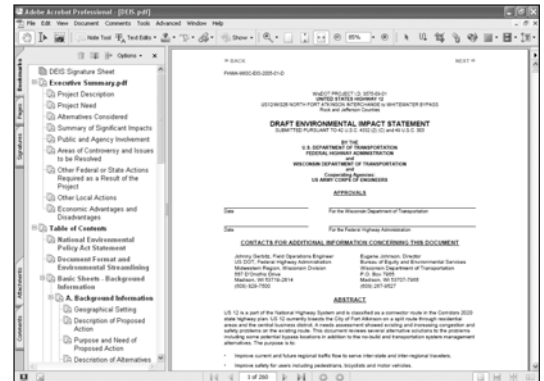
Identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority, low-income, disabled or elderly individuals will help achieve environmental justice and promote nondiscrimination in your community. If you know of anyone who may be impacted by this project and whose voice is not being heard, please contact WisDOT Southwest Region project manager Michelle Ellias at (608) 245-2675.

Luther Elementary School in Fort Atkinson, site of the Nov. 29 public hearing, is wheelchair accessible. To place a request for assistance at the hearing, please call Ellias or the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System at (800) 947-3529.

## Review DEIS on paper or online

Paper copies of the DEIS can be found at local libraries, City of Fort Atkinson City Hall, Town Halls in Koshkonong, Milton and Lima, Jefferson County Clerk and Rock County Clerk, and the Southwest Region office in Madison. The document may also be viewed on the Internet at [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/d1/us12fort/enviro.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/d1/us12fort/enviro.htm).

Citizens have several different ways to submit comments about the DEIS to WisDOT. During the Nov. 29 public hearing, attendees will be able to testify openly or privately submit their comments to a court reporter. WisDOT will also accept written comments during the formal public comment period from Oct. 28, 2005, to Dec. 14, 2005. Project comment sheets will be available at the hearing, or citizens can simply write a letter to the project contact noted below. E-mails are also acceptable.



The DEIS is available for citizens to review electronically on WisDOT's Web site.

Written comments should be mailed to WisDOT Southwest Region project manager Michelle Ellias, 2101 Wright St., Madison, WI 53704, or e-mailed to [michelle.ellias@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:michelle.ellias@dot.state.wi.us).

## 'Preferred alternative' selection is next step

WisDOT studied 18 alternatives to address needs identified for US 12. After significant public input, six alternatives merited further investigation in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. WisDOT now needs to select a "preferred alternative" or the one recommended for implementation. This process will formally begin after the public has had another opportunity to submit comments. The selected alternative should meet the purpose and need and be consistent with the community's values, concerns, ideas and visions as voiced during the review process. The decision will be made after consultation with the interested public agencies. After the preferred alternative is selected, WisDOT will prepare a Final EIS which will be used by state legislators and the Federal Highway Administration to make a final decision on whether to fund the project.

## WisDOT wants to know about historical, archeological resources

Citizens who have an interest in or knowledge of historical or archaeological resources in the US 12 project area are invited to share information at the public hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2005, at Luther Elementary School, 205 Park St. in Fort Atkinson.

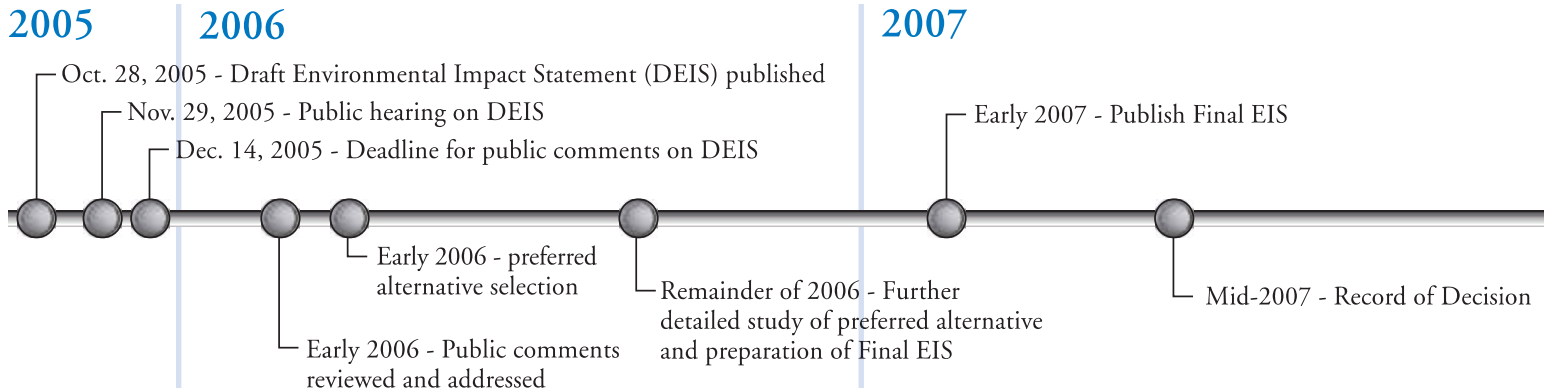
## WisDOT thanks committee members

During the study, WisDOT has received guidance from an Advisory Committee of representatives from the project area.

WisDOT would like to thank the following individuals for volunteering their time and thoughts into this project:

- **Jaе Ames**  
Town of Koshkonong  
Board of Supervisors
- **Carlton Zentner**  
Jefferson  
County Board
- **Todd Carter**  
Friends of  
Koshkonong  
US 12 Committee
- **Michael Newell**  
Resident of the  
town of Lima
- **Mark Anderson**  
Resident of the  
town of Koshkonong
- **Joanne Kyle**  
Town of Lima and  
Concerned Citizens  
of Lima
- **Bill Camplin**  
City of Fort Atkinson  
City Council
- **Leonard Stalker**  
Town of Milton  
Board of Supervisors
- **Chuck Frandson**  
Resident of  
Fort Atkinson
- **Robert Hanlon**  
Resident of the  
town of Milton
- **David Schulz**  
Greater Fort Atkinson  
Chamber of Commerce
- **Mary Mawhinney**  
Rock County Board
- **Tim Griep**  
Jefferson  
County Board

## *Project time line*



Michelle Ellias  
WisDOT Southwest Region Office  
2101 Wright St.  
Madison, WI 53704

# YOU'RE INVITED

to the US 12 Environmental Impact Statement  
**Public Hearing**

**Date:** Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2005

**Time:** Open house beginning at 6:30 with a presentation at 7 p.m.

**Place:** Luther Elementary School  
205 Park St. in Fort Atkinson

Study Team members will be on hand to answer questions.