

WIS 26 Watertown bypass Johnson Creek to Watertown

March 2006

Preliminary design phase

Introduction

The initial corridor planning phase for 48 miles of WIS 26 in Rock, Jefferson and Dodge counties was completed in summer 2005 with a final environmental impact statement (EIS) approved by the Federal Highway Administration. The final EIS identified a preferred alternative that would widen existing WIS 26 to a four lane highway and provide bypasses around the cities of Milton, Jefferson and Watertown.

The project has now progressed to the preliminary design phase that involves refining the preferred alternative developed in the corridor planning phase and preparing a more detailed plan. This newsletter covers proposed improvements in the WIS 26 Johnson Creek to Watertown segment including the Watertown bypass (see map).

Proposed improvements

The WIS 26 Johnson Creek to Watertown project begins just south of Baneck Lane and continues north along existing WIS 26 to Turf Road. At Turf Road future WIS 26 will bypass the city of Watertown to the west and rejoin existing WIS 26 north of the city near County Q. The project also includes a new WIS 16 extension that starts near the Union Pacific Railroad on the north side of the city and continues west to a new interchange with the WIS 26 bypass.

WIS 26 will be a four lane highway with managed access including relocated or consolidated driveways and limited turning movements at some local road intersections. The bypass will have controlled access from three interchanges.

There will also be a multi-use trail along the west side of WIS 26 from Baneck Lane to High Road just south of Ebenezer Drive.

Public information meeting set

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has scheduled a public information meeting to present the preliminary design plan for the WIS 26 Johnson Creek to Watertown segment and to gather public comments on the plan.

The meeting will be on **Thursday, April 6, 2006 at the Watertown High School (second floor auditorium room S280), 825 Endeavor Drive, Watertown. The informal open house meeting will be from 4 to 8 p.m. with a brief presentation at 6:30.**

You may stop in anytime between 4 and 8 to review the displays and share your comments or concerns.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Hearing impaired persons needing assistance may call the WisDOT TDD number, 608-261-8200, available Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Calls can also be placed through the Wisconsin Telecommunication Relay System at 1-800-947-3529. To allow time for arranging assistance, please call no later than three working days prior to the meeting.



Design refinements

Key design refinements that have been made since the initial corridor planning phase include the following:

- The existing County segment between the UP Railroad and Rock River will be moved closer to the railroad tracks. This segment will connect with the proposed frontage road. The alignment shift eliminates the need for two bridges on the WIS 26 bypass and makes the frontage road the through traffic movement.
- The Baneck Lane and Ebenezer Drive intersections with the WIS 26 bypass will have restricted turning movements (right in and right out only).
- The WIS 26 median at Emerald Drive and County Q will be widened to provide additional storage room for farm machinery and other vehicles.
- Proposed interchange configurations at the WIS 26 bypass and WIS 16, and at WIS 16 and old WIS 26 will be modified to provide smoother traffic operations for local and through traffic.
- County A and Silver Creek Road will go over the WIS 26 bypass.
- A multi-use path will be provided along the west side of WIS 26 from Baneck Lane to High Road.
- The proposed alignment shift for existing County Y, side road design at the WIS 26/ Emerald and WIS 26/Ebenezer intersections, and the multi-use path layout will result in additional residential displacements.

Upcoming activities

Based on input from the public information meeting and additional engineering/environmental evaluation, the project team will continue to refine the preliminary plan. Additional field work will be needed as the project progresses including engineering surveys, soil borings and archaeological investigations. Cooperation in allowing project staff to enter private property will be greatly appreciated.

Another public meeting will be held prior to finalizing the preliminary plan. It will be announced in area newspapers and through a newsletter.

Schedule

The proposed timeline for completing the preliminary design is as follows:

- Baneck Lane to Turf Road—early spring 2008
- Turf Road to WIS 19—spring 2007
- WIS 19 to County Q—early winter 2007

Construction is targeted as follows:

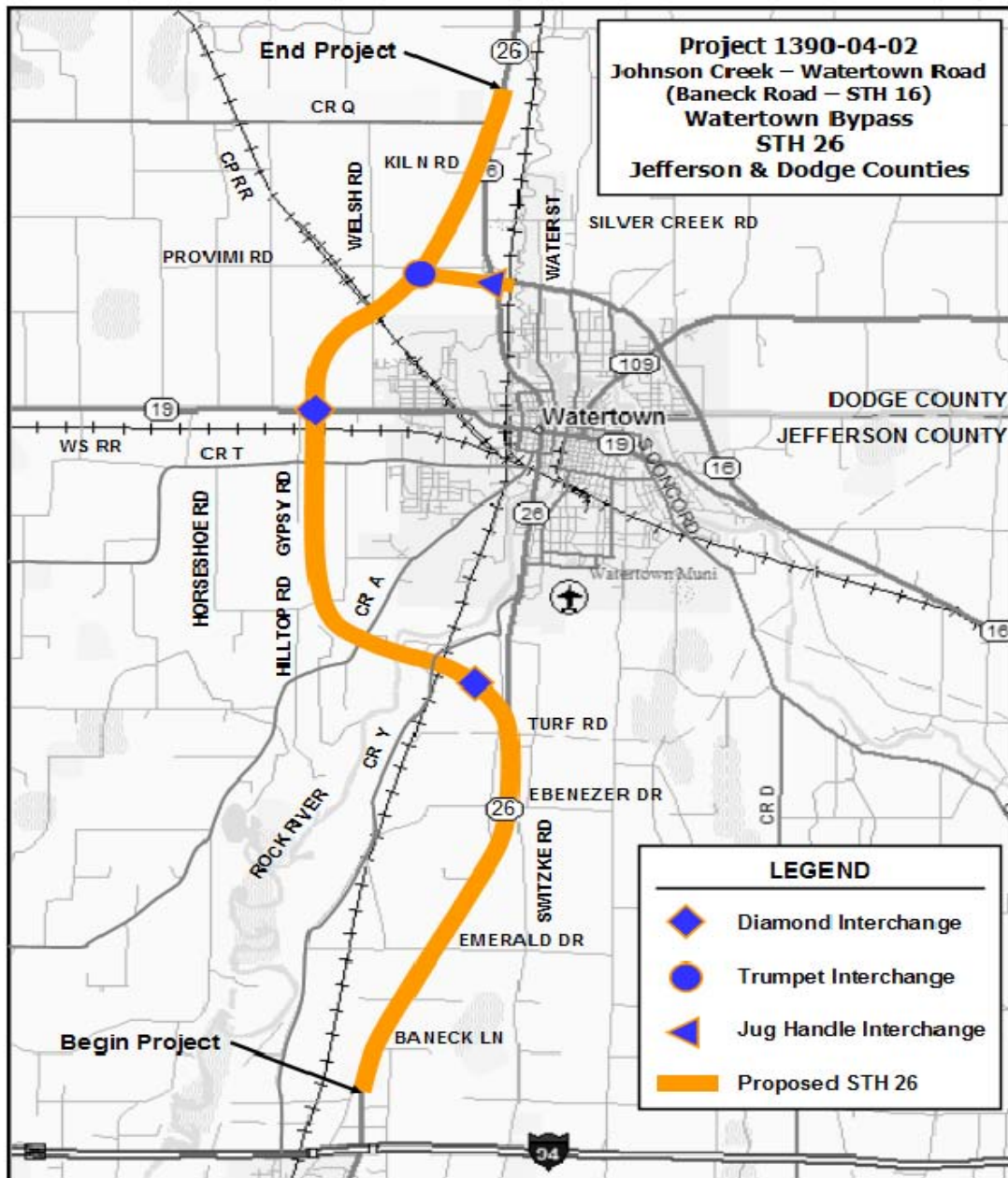
- Baneck Lane to Turf Road—summer 2010 through fall 2011
- Turf Road to WIS 19—summer 2009 through fall 2010
- WIS 19 to County Q—spring 2010 through summer 2011

Project contacts

If you have any questions about the proposed WIS 26 improvements or the April 6 public information meeting, contact one of the following project team members:

Mark Vesperman, P.E.
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Southwest Regional Office
2101 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53701
608-246-3884
mark.vesperman@dot.state.wi.us

Todd Hertz, P.E.
KL Engineering
5950 Seminole Centre Ct. Suite 200
Madison, WI 53711
608-663-1218
thertz@klengineering.com



KL Engineering
5950 Seminole Centre Ct. Suite 200
Madison, WI 53711

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Newsletter and public meeting notice