

West Side Arterial Corridor Location Study

WIS 26 – WIS 21

Winnebago County

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Who is conducting the West Side Arterial Corridor Location Study?** The Winnebago County Highway Commission is conducting the study. The study will be conducted in coordination with the City of Oshkosh; the Towns of Algoma, Omro, Utica and Nekimi; WisDOT and the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
- 2. What is the West Side Arterial Corridor Location Study all about?** The need for a west side arterial is identified in the Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for construction in 15-30 years. The purpose of this study is to identify a location for the West Side Arterial and map the right of way necessary to construct the highway.

The West Side Arterial will provide enhanced north/south mobility in Winnebago County between WIS 26 and WIS 21 by providing an alternative route to US 41. The West Side Arterial would serve primarily local traffic while US 41 serves state and regional traffic. In addition, the west side arterial will support planned and anticipated development in the study area.

- 3. What is the study area?** The area being studied for the location of the west side arterial is bounded by WIS 21 on the north, WIS 26 on the south, County FF on the west and US 41 on the east.
- 4. Why is the study being done now?** The study is being done now to coordinate with WisDOT's WIS 21 Corridor Preservation Plan. The WIS 21 Corridor Preservation Plan will determine the location of access points to WIS 21. The West Side Arterial will have access to WIS 21. Coordination between Winnebago County and WisDOT at this time will allow for both agencies to adequately plan for their future highway facilities.

Conducting the study at this time will also provide the opportunity to preserve a corridor before development precludes the ability to build the highway in the future. The study will identify a preferred location for the corridor, its design characteristics, identify right-of-way needs, and preserve the right-of-way through an official mapping process initiated by the county. These actions need to occur well in advance of any construction of the corridor to allow for adequate planning and design.

- 5. Has the alignment location for West Side Arterial already been determined?** The alignment location has not been determined at this time. The corridor study process will determine a preferred alignment for the corridor through the information gathered from public and local official meetings as well as through the use of technical analysis and conceptual design.

The study will be guided by the goals and objectives outlined in Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization Long Range Transportation and Land Use Plan.

- Integrated planning
- Maximum system effectiveness
- Efficient street and highway system
- Safety
- Minimum environmental disruption
- Conservation of energy
- Multimodal interaction

- 6. When might the West Side Arterial be constructed?** It is likely that this highway will not be constructed for 15 years or more. A decision on when to construct the highway will be made based on need and the availability of funding.
- 7. When will right-of-way be acquired?**
Winnebago County may start acquiring right-of-way within the next few years. Funds will need to be made available before acquisition starts. Winnebago County will acquire one parcel at a time in areas where right-of-way is more critical to preserve.
- 8. Can I continue to use my land after the corridor is mapped?**
Landowners can continue to use their land, but new construction will not be allowed within the mapped corridor. Once Winnebago County purchases the land they are then the owners and won't be able to allow uncontrolled private use of the properties.
- 9. Has the funding for construction been allocated?**
No funding has been identified beyond the corridor location study.
- 10. Can the existing roadway system be improved to handle the increased traffic?**
Alternatives studied will include upgrades to the existing system.
- 11. What are the next steps once the study is completed?** The study will conclude with the issuance of a final report and map outlining the preferred alternative and approximate right-of-way needs. Winnebago County will work with local communities to officially map the corridor through Wis. Stats. 66.1031. Property owners located along the mapped corridor will receive future notices as the project progresses.
- 12. How can I get involved and stay informed?** Public meetings will offer opportunities for you to provide early input on the study needs and issues. Notification of future meetings and additional information regarding this project is available at the Winnebago County website (www.co.winnebago.wi.us). In addition, public meeting notices will be published in local newspapers. You may also contact the people listed below with any questions you might have.

For additional information regarding the project, please contact:

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