

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ESTABLISHING LOCATIONS AND RIGHT OF WAY WIDTHS FOR A FUTURE
EXPRESSWAY ALONG A PORTION OF US 53 BETWEEN THE WASCOTT/GORDON
TOWN LINE AND SOLON SPRINGS/BENNETT TOWN LINE
LOCATED IN DOUGLAS COUNTY**

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are advised that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing pursuant to Wis. Stat. 84.295 (10), to consider the mapping of future highway improvements on a segment of US 53 from the Wascott/Gordon Town Line to 0.3 Miles South of Solon Springs/Bennett Town Line (WisDOT ID: 1195-00-07). Communities in the study area include the Towns of Bennett, Gordon, Solon Springs, and Wascott, and the Village of Solon Springs.

The proposed action is located solely in Douglas County. The length of the project study area is approximately 12 miles with future right of way preservation proposed only in the vicinity of the US 53/County A intersection and the US 53/County Y intersection. US 53 is already designated and constructed as an expressway for the length of the study.

The proposed action consists of the adoption of a map that establishes the location and right of way widths for future safety and mobility improvements to the US 53/County A intersection and the US 53/County Y intersection.

The proposed action does not include programming of construction funds but allows the preservation of right of way to accommodate future construction of proposed grade separated intersections.

The mapped improvements would allow, if warranted by traffic conditions, that County A and County Y could be relocated on new alignment near their current locations and an overpass could be constructed at US 53 for both locations. Local road connections would allow for access between US 53 and the area surrounding the current intersections. In addition, several sections of the existing local roadway system would be altered to insure internal local road system continuity and access to US 53.

Further information concerning the proposed improvement is available from Marc Bowker at the Department's Northwest Region Office in Spooner, Wisconsin at the address given below. Information can also be viewed online at:

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53corridor/default.aspx>

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at the Gordon Town Hall located at 9709E County Road Y, Gordon. The public hearing will be conducted from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Interested persons may attend anytime between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to review displays and other hearing materials, ask questions, and provide testimony.

The traditional-style portion of the public hearing will begin at 6 p.m. and will end when all interested persons have provided testimony or 7 p.m., whichever occurs first. The traditional-style portion of the public hearing will begin with an informational project presentation prior to accepting traditional-style testimony from the public.

To allow for arranging assistance for special accommodations needed to participate, please contact the project manager no later than three working days prior to the public hearing. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Hearing impaired persons needing assistance should contact the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System (dial 711).

WisDOT project staff will be available for informal discussion to explain the proposed improvements and answer questions. Exhibits of the proposal will be on display and a copy of the Evaluation of Environmental Factors report will be available for review.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and to present relevant verbal and/or written testimony concerning the mapping for the establishment of approximate locations and widths of future rights of way necessary for the expressway in accordance with the provisions of Section 84.295(10) of the Wisconsin Statutes and whether the improvement is or is not in the public interest and consistent with the goals and objectives of area planning.

Land acquisition and schedules for construction will be discussed at the public hearing.

A total of one residential relocation and eleven driveway closures and relocations would be included in the mapping.

Provisions have been made for the submission of written statements or other exhibits in place of or in addition to the testimony presented at the public hearing. This additional testimony will be included in the hearing record if postmarked no later than April 5, 2017. Mail this additional testimony to the project manager contact listed below.

Marc Bowker
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
Northwest Region – Spooner Office
W7102 Green Valley Road
Spooner, WI 54801
Email: marc.bowker@dot.wi.gov
Phone: (715) 635-4975
WI Telecommunications Relay System: (TTY): 711

The Department of Transportation will review all comments and testimony presented as part of this public hearing process and reserves the right to make a final determination on the proposed mapping as described in this notice.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation System Development

Project ID 1195-00-07