



Division of Transportation System Development

Southwest Region
2101 Wright St
Madison, WI 53704-2583

Scott Walker, Governor
Dave Ross, Secretary
Internet: www.dot.wisconsin.gov

Telephone: 608-246-5444
E-mail: robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov

February 27, 2017

Keith Ripp, State Representative
State Capitol - Room 223 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Keith Ripp,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have decided to officially end the I-39/90/94 (Madison – Portage) Tier 1 EIS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) corridor study that began in 2014. Work on the Tier 1 EIS has ended as of February 24, 2017. WisDOT and FHWA are currently working on a Notice of Intent (NOI) to rescind the original NOI. This update is being sent to all involved stakeholders to ensure this action is uniformly understood.

The Tier 1 EIS is being canceled due to recent and on-going reprioritization of major transportation projects.

The Department will soon begin a new National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate replacement for the existing Wisconsin River Bridges. Any future transportation improvements along I-39/90/94 corridor will progress under a separate environmental review process, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

When Tier 1 EIS activities were halted, the Department was working toward finalizing the range of corridor alternatives. This included four freeway corridors partially on new alignment east of the interstate and three alternatives on the existing interstate corridor. Analyses of new right-of-way requirements, including home and business relocations, and wetland and stream impacts of the four East Reliever corridor alternatives indicated substantially higher human and natural environmental impacts than any of the three alternatives along the existing I-39/90/94 corridor. Accordingly, prior to termination of the study, the Department was proposing to remove the East Reliever alternative corridors from further consideration.

At this time, WisDOT is simply making sure all involved stakeholders are aware that the Tier 1 EIS has been ended. Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your past participation and assistance with this study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RKnorr".

Robert Knorr
Project Manager, I-39/90/94 (Madison – Portage)

Project ID 1010-10-00
I-39/90/94 Study
Madison - Portage
Dane and Columbia Counties, Wisconsin

cc: David Vieth, WisDOT SW-Region Director
Michael Hoelker, WisDOT Major Studies Chief
Brandon Lamers, WisDOT Major Studies Supervisor
Michael Bie, WisDOT SW-Region Communications Manager
Larry Barta, WisDOT SW-Region Project Manager
Joel Brown, WisDOT Environmental Coordinator