

**From:** [Rhatican, Tom M - DOT](#)  
**To:** [Polzin, Cindy M - GOV](#)  
**Cc:** [Hughes, Patrick - GOV](#)  
**Subject:** TPC letter -- announcing meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:42:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [TPC LETTER-1.pdf](#)

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Cindy....this is the letter that went out on September 15. It lays out the recommended projects for enumeration, and identifies other possible actions (all of which are non-controversial and are merely clean-up measures).

You may find it helpful as we assist with preparing board members for the meeting.



# Wisconsin Department of Transportation

www.dot.wisconsin.gov

Scott Walker  
Governor

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.  
Secretary

Office of the Secretary  
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September 15, 2014

Governor Scott Walker  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

I am pleased to recommend the projects listed below for consideration by the Transportation Projects Commission (TPC) as Major Highway Project enumeration candidates. We look forward to discussing these projects at the TPC meeting to be held on December 1, 2014 at 12:45 in the Governor's Conference Room at the State Capitol.

- Interstate Highway 43 (Silver Spring Dr. – Wis. 60) Milwaukee & Ozaukee Counties
- Interstate Highway 94 (USH 12 – Wis. 65 (130<sup>th</sup> St)) St. Croix County
- Wisconsin State Highway 50 (I-94 to 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave) Kenosha County

The I-43 and I-94 projects listed above are part of the eleven Major Highway Study Projects having environmental studies conducted by the Department at the direction of the TPC. These study projects are now complete and are ready for enumeration. The third project, State Highway 50, did not require environmental study as a Major Highway Study Project because it qualifies for consideration as a Major Highway Project under State Statute 84.013 (1)(a)2m, which establishes the threshold at which high cost rehabilitation projects are defined as Major Projects.

The Department has evaluated the I-43 and I-94 projects using Administrative Rule Trans 210, which is in accordance with Wis. Stat. 85.05. Trans 210 is used to evaluate proposed major projects qualifying under Wis. Stat. 84.013 (1)(a)1m in terms of their ability to achieve the Major Highway Program goals of enhancing Wisconsin's economy, improving highway service, and improving highway safety, while minimizing environmental impacts and serving community objectives. The Wis. 50 project is not evaluated using Trans 210 because it is a high cost project qualifying for Major Highway Program consideration under Wis. Stat. 84.013 (1)(a)2m. The Trans 210 scores are as follows:

Highway	Termini	Miles	Trans 210 Score	Rank
I-43	Silver Spring Drive – Wis. 60	14	105.3	1
I-94	USH 12 – Wis. 65 (130 <sup>th</sup> St.)	7.5	80.2	2
Wis. 50	I-94 to 43 <sup>rd</sup> Ave	4.4	N/A	N/A

After careful consideration, WisDOT is recommending that all projects be approved for enumeration by the TPC. The I-43 and I-94 projects scored highly on one or more of the most heavily weighted scoring categories: economics, traffic flow, and safety; and the Wis. 50 project, qualifying for Majors as a high cost rehabilitation project, also brings needed safety, economic, and traffic flow benefits.

Also, as part of a continuing effort to prioritize projects and construction scheduling to better address program needs, the Department will recommend: canceling two enumerated Major Highway Projects; possibly canceling or redefining the boundaries of a third project; and considering a fourth project complete.

Projects Recommended for Cancellation:

- Beloit Bypass, Wis. 81/Wis. 213, Rock County;

Cost-to-Complete Estimate: \$9,300,000

The project study was canceled by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation due to a lack of local support. Additionally, the Beloit Metropolitan Planning Organization passed a resolution to recommend study termination.

The Department recommends TPC consideration for removing the project from the Major Highway Program.

- Wis. 38 (CTH K to Oakwood Rd.), Milwaukee & Racine Counties;

Cost-to-Complete Estimate: \$123,900,000

The Department has suspended work on the Wis. 38 project, which was recommended for enumeration by the TPC in 2010 and enumerated in 2011. The decision was heavily influenced by the absence of local consensus on a preferred alignment for the project. Efforts by the Department to generate a consensus of local support for a recommended project alternative were unsuccessful.

The Department recommends TPC consideration for removing the project from the Major Highway Program.

Possible Project Cancellation or Boundary Redefinition Recommendation:

- USH 53 La Crosse Corridor, La Crosse County;

Cost-to-Complete Estimate: \$137,900,000

This project, enumerated in 1997, has been hindered by a lack of local consensus on a preferred alignment and scope for the project. Although the La Crosse Area Planning Commission and the County of La Crosse offered resolutions in support of a study that would meet purpose and need as identified by the Department, the City of La Crosse passed a resolution that recommends studying alternatives for the corridor that are not consistent with the Department's identified purpose and need for the project.

The Department is still investigating options for addressing needs on the corridor; however, it is possible that a recommendation to cancel or redefine the project may be made at the TPC Meeting.

Project Considered Complete:

- USH 14 (Viroqua – Westby), Vernon County;

Cost-to-Complete Estimate: \$42,400,000

The original scope of the project was to reconstruct the existing 2-lane rural highway as a 4-lane divided highway between Viroqua and Westby. The original plan also included 2-lane bypasses east of Viroqua and west of Westby.

In 2011, a 4-lane facility was constructed between Viroqua and Westby. This improvement addressed immediate safety, capacity and operational needs. However, the Westby and Viroqua bypasses were not constructed because traffic forecasts, land use, and development and community plans did not demonstrate an immediate need.

Due to a lack of need for the 2-lane bypasses at this time, and given other higher priority program needs, the Department recommends that the TPC consider this project complete.

We look forward to assisting the Commission in its efforts to evaluate the Department's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Mark Gottlieb, P.E.  
Secretary

Cc: Senators: Joseph Leibham, Robert Cowles, Timothy Cullen, Jerry Petrowski, Tim Carpenter  
Representatives: John Spiros, Keith Ripp, Fred Clark, Mike Endsley, Amy Sue Vruwink  
Citizen Members: Jean Jacobson, Barbara Fleisner LaMue, Michael Ryan

**From:** [Meier, Joan - DOT](#)  
**To:** [Hughes, Patrick - GOV](#)  
**Cc:** [Rhatican, Tom M - DOT](#)  
**Subject:** FW: TPC binder - electronic version  
**Date:** Thursday, November 20, 2014 4:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Nov 2014 TPC binder.pdf](#)

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Pat,  
Per Tom's request attached is the electronic version of the TPC binder.

Joan Meier  
Assistant to Tom Rhatican, Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
(608) 264-8423

-----Original Message-----  
From: Rhatican, Tom M - DOT  
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2014 3:27 PM  
To: Meier, Joan - DOT  
Subject: TPC binder - electronic version

Joan...will you please send Pat Hughes a copy of the TPC binder (on electrons)? Thx.

Sent from my iPhone

1	<b>DECEMBER 2014 TPC MEETING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agenda and Member Directory</li></ul>
2	<b>MEETING MINUTES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes from 11/2/2011 TPC Meeting</li></ul>
3	<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TPC &amp; WisDOT Roles; Process to be a Major; Key Major Program Statutes</li></ul>
4	<b>DOT RECOMMENDATIONS &amp; EVALUATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommendation Letter; Map of Projects; Level of Service Data; Project Evaluation</li></ul>
5	<b>ENUMERATION REQUIREMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compliance Financial and Environmental Requirements</li></ul>
6	<b>I-43 PROJECT DETAIL</b>
7	<b>I-94 PROJECT DETAIL</b>
8	<b>WIS. 50 PROJECT DETAIL</b>
9	<b>ENUMERATED PROJECTS WITH MINIMAL OR NO COSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program Schedule; Projects &amp; Comments</li></ul>
10	<b>AUGUST 2014 TPC REPORT</b>
11	
12	



## **Chapter 1**

# **TPC 2014 MEETING**

- **Agenda**
- **Member Directory**





**Agenda**  
**Transportation Projects Commission Meeting**  
**December 1, 2014**

- **Roll Call, Review of Minutes, and Opening Statements**
  
- **Overview of Major Projects and TPC Responsibilities**
  - **Role of the Commission**
  - **Major Highway Environmental Study and Enumeration Process Timeline**
  
- **Current Status of the Major Highway Development Program**
  - **Schedules for Currently Enumerated Projects**
  - **Summary of Projects Currently Under Study**
  - **Need to Enumerate Construction Projects**
  
- **Projects Recommended for Enumeration**
  - **Project Summaries**
  
- **Discussion & Motions**
  
- **Enumerated Major Highway Projects with Minimal or No Construction Expenditures**
  - **Project List and Comments**
  
- **Discussion & Motions**
  
- **Adjourn**



# MEMBER DIRECTORY

November 2014

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS COMMISSION MEMBERS

### **Governor Scott Walker**

#### **Chairman**

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## **Chapter 2**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

- **Minutes from 11/2/2011 Meeting**



**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2011**

**Governor's Conference Room  
State Capitol**

**8:15 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Mark Gottlieb, P.E.  
Senator Mary Lazich  
Senator Dave Hansen  
Senator Jim Holperin  
Senator Frank Lasee  
Senator Joseph Leibham  
Representative John Steinbrink

Representative Jerry Petrowski  
Representative Mike Endsley  
Representative Paul Farrow  
Citizen Representative Thomas Carlsen  
Citizen Representative Barbara Fleisner  
Citizen Representative Michael Ryan

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Fred Clark

**DOT STAFF PRESENT**

Steve Krieser  
Mark Wolfgram, Ph.D.  
Joe Nestler, P.E.  
Jay Shad

Paul Hammer  
Sharon Bremser, P.E.  
Dawn Krahn, P.E.  
Rob Miller

Governor Walker called the meeting to order and asked that the roll be called.

Governor Walker welcomed the members, thanked them for their presence and service. Governor Walker proposed a motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2011 meeting, motion passed unanimously.

Governor Walker gave his opening remarks and stated that today's meeting was to consider several projects ready for approval to begin the environmental study phase and one project ready for approval for construction.

WisDOT Secretary Gottlieb commented on the misconception among some people and groups that Wisconsin is putting too strong of an emphasis on highway expansion when the Major projects make up only a small portion of all of the State Highway Program. Further, many costs associated with major projects are for rebuilding deteriorating infrastructure and improving safety, not capacity expansion. WisDOT spends twice as much on 3R projects to protect current assets. He then stated that the WisDOT recommends several projects for advancement to the environmental study phase.

Dr. Mark Wolfgram, WisDOT Administrator of the Division of Transportation Investment Management, gave a status of current study projects and reviewed a map that showed recommended studies, approved study projects, enumerated projects, and recently completed projects. He described the process to identify potential projects that considers traffic congestion, economic and safety issues, including other factors. He discussed the differences in level of service for the highways and how WisDOT evaluates the top needs around the state and recommends projects to the commission for consideration. Because these studies can take a long time, it is important to begin studies well in advance.

Wolfgram provided an overview of the 6 studies being recommended for approval. These studies include:

<u>Highway</u>	<u>Termini</u>	<u>County</u>
1. I-94	(70 <sup>th</sup> Street to 25 <sup>th</sup> Street)	Milwaukee
2. USH 12	(USH 14 Easterly to CTH N)	Dane
3. I 39/90	(Madison (USH 12) to WI Dells (USH 12)	Dane/Columbia/Sauk
4. I-43	(Silver Spring Drive Northerly to STH 60)	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
5. USH 51	(USH 12 Northerly to STH 19)	Dane
6. I-94	(USH 12 Easterly to STH 65)	St. Croix

Governor Walker asked if the members had questions about the studies and stated that a motion would follow the discussion.

Representative Petrowski asked if fatalities were considered to recommend these studies. Wolfgram said yes, and indicated the more severe number of crashes that happen, the higher rating the roadway segment gets. Governor Walker stated that although these projects may be concentrated in southern Wisconsin, the entire state will get benefits from them.

Senator Holperin expressed concern over funding for the maintenance and rehabilitation of local roads being decreased by 9%-15% and said he is reluctant to vote to advanced projects when we slight needs in local areas. Town road funding and transportation aids have all decreased over the years. He feels the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission should look at all funding for highways and not just construction. He hopes they have a recommendation of how to mix construction and maintenance financing.



Tom Carlsen stated that these roads have undergone rehabilitation, maintenance and resurfacing to patch together the pavement to last this long but they have come to the end of their useful life. He reiterated what Secretary Gottlieb said about these projects will be needed for the full replacement of the current pavement.

Reprehensive Steinbrink concurred with Senator Holprien's comments on road aids and commended WisDOT for how they work with the locals to provide these aids.

Governor Walker pointed out that while the local concern is a good topic to discuss he said transportation has been a bi-partisan topic in the past and has seen how diversion of transportation monies in the last budget leads to problems such as the Zoo Interchange. He duly noted the local maintenance concerns.

Senator Liebham asked Mark Wolfgram why he did not mention community support for the studies. Wolfgram said that unlike the enumeration process, the environmental study stage will address community issues as they work through alternatives for improvement. When a project comes before the commission for enumeration it has had the social, economic, and safety concerns associated with the project addressed through a process that involves significant public input.

Governor Walker commended the DOT for its analysis of the projects, and proposed approval of the projects to begin environmental study. The motion was moved by Senator Lazich and seconded by Representative Farrow. The motion passed 13 – 0.

Governor Walker asked WisDOT Secretary Gottlieb to discuss the approval of its recommendation for project construction.

Secretary Gottlieb discussed the statutory change that requires that project over \$75 million be constructed as a major project. He requested approval to construct the USH 18/151 (Verona Road Interchange). Mark Wolfgram provided a brief description of the needs and estimated costs associated with the project.

Governor Walker asked if the members had questions about the studies and stated that a motion would follow the discussion.

Senator Hansen asked what the construction schedule was for the project and was told by Joe Nestler, Director of WisDOT – Bureau of State Highway Programs that stage 1 would be FY 15 and Stage 2 would be FY 19. If the TIGER grant application discussed was approved, it could advance stage 1 to FY 14. Senator Lazich asked how long the pedestrian tunnel was and was told there are actually 2 halves to tunnel. The first is approximately 100 feet long and the other is 160 feet long. She expressed concern of safety for people in the tunnel. WisDOT had worked with the Madison and Fitchburg police in selecting the design for the tunnel. It was pointed out that the underground tunnel was half the cost of an overhead one. Studies have shown that people are more likely to use the underground type than above ground type.

Representative Endsley asked what the timeline was for the studies; Wolfgram

answered 5-7 years. Representative Petrowski asked how accurate the estimate was and was told that WisDOT goes through an extensive risk analysis process to come up with this estimate number and feels comfortable with its amount.

Governor Walker made a motion to approve the project, it was moved by Representative Petrowski and seconded by Senator Lazich. Motion passed 13 - 0.

Governor Walker provided a brief recap of the meeting and future steps. He thanked the commission for its time. Governor Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was then adjourned.

*Notes not official until the Commission approves at the next meeting.*

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## **Chapter 3**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- **TPC & WisDOT Roles in the Major Highway Program**
- **Process to be a Major**
- **Key Major Highway Program Statutes**