

Wisconsin High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail  
Focus Group Meeting #1 – Additional Session  
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Madison Corridor Management Plan  
October 6, 2010

**Focus Group Members Present:** Satya Rhodes-Conway, Marsha Rummel, Robbie Webber, Joe Campana, Scott Langer, Tony Fernandez

**Focus Group Members Absent:** Adam Prell, Jeff Mintzlaff, Ben Meighan

**Focus Group Member Stand-in:** Brent Marsh attended for Ben Meighan

**WisDOT Staff Present:** Paul Trombino, Kjirstin Roberts

**Consultant Staff Present:** Caron Kloser, Chuck Wade, June Coleman, Jeff Francis  
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### **Welcome:**

Paul Trombino of WisDOT opened the meeting at 8:40am by welcoming everyone to meeting. He acknowledged the State's appreciation for their participation in bringing forth issues important to their respective communities. The Focus Group is a great opportunity to work together to address concerns and, perhaps, identify and discuss long standing issues as well.

Chuck Wade walked the group through the materials in front of them, including minutes from the first meeting. The Vision exercise comments incorporated on the maps have not been sent to the whole group, but will be once today's comments are added to the maps. Otherwise, the only difference in materials for the group is an updated email contact sheet and confirmation of the October 21<sup>st</sup> second meeting date.

Chuck went through the slides presentation from the first meeting giving the group a project overview of corridor speeds and schedule. Jefferson County land bridge construction is slated for October 2010; corridor design will be complete by April 2011; and the entire corridor will be completed by December 2012 with passenger service running by early 2013.

There are two Diagnostic Teams at the State level: one for crossing locations and one for fencing considerations. All comments from each of the Focus Group meetings will be forwarded to the diagnostic teams. The timeline for the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) includes the following:

- Document draft ready by December 2010
- Final document available by April 2011.
- Separate process is underway for a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that will be incorporated into the final CMP document in April.

- The City of Madison is engaged in separate meetings running concurrent with the Focus Group meetings.
- A Public Involvement Meeting (PIM) is scheduled for December 2010 to review, discuss, and provide input on the Focus Group's work to date.
- Final recommendations as a result of all meetings will be forwarded to the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR).

Focus Group members are leaders and representatives of their respective communities and play a critical role as public/community liaison.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Goodman Community Center in Madison. Primary purpose for this three hour meeting is discussion of crossing locations, including review of the Diagnostic Team's preliminary recommendations. The November meeting will focus on fencing treatments. After the December PIM, a draft CMP document will be readied with multiple updates and feedback to the FG prior to the final March 2011 meeting.

It was reiterated that the group's purpose is advisory, non-voting and the OCR and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) makes final determination on all recommended crossings and fencing treatments. Safety is the overriding factor for all recommendations and decisions.

At this point many questions were asked including:

- Is there a prescribed list for crossing treatments that the State uses?
  - There are standards that must be followed.
- Including for roadways, paths?
  - Standards for any crossings, but the State will design with SSMs (supplemental safety measures), such as gates, and will use these to get Quiet Zone status. Basically, trying to meet quiet zone criteria through the what is viewed mostly as the use of safety devices.
- Will the entire corridor be fenced?
  - No, mostly trespass locations.
- In urban corridors?
  - Most of City of Madison locations will have fencing.
- Is the State going out and physically surveying these crossings?
  - Yes, physically surveying every grade crossing.
- Have the surveys already begun?
  - Yes
- The 30-foot centerline is based on what?

- Based on trains clearance window and a safety issue from maintenance perspective along the corridor, i.e., where the vehicles can sit and where workers along the track are safe.
- Is the corridor used for other utilities?
  - Yes, multiple utilities.

*Activity*

Write down specific goals, neighborhood issues. Please jot down concerns/issues important to your neighborhood. These will be added to the prior session's list and forwarded to the whole Focus Group and the Diagnostic Team. [Issues have been added to the full list and incorporated on maps.]

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:15 a.m.