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SUMMER 2009 | Wisconsin Department of Transportation

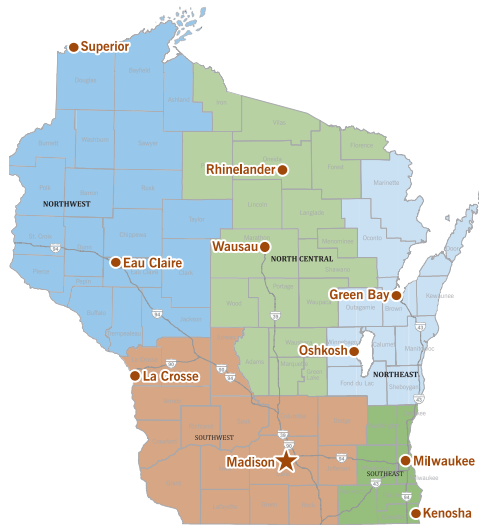
Connections
2030

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WisDOT takes *Connections 2030* plan on the road for public review

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) released the *Connections 2030* draft plan for public comment on November 9, 2008. The public comment period ended March 13, 2009. During this time, WisDOT conducted public information meetings at 10 locations throughout the state to present and seek public feedback on the *Connections 2030* draft plan. The meetings took place in Madison, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Superior, Eau Claire, Rhinelander, Wausau, Green Bay and Oshkosh.

More than 300 people attended the meetings, including residents, business people, and local and elected officials. At the meetings, participants browsed more than 20 displays, reviewed copies of the draft plan and corridor maps, and could take home copies of the plan executive summary and fact sheets, and CDs of the entire plan and all the corridor maps. In addition, meeting participants could view an automated presentation



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summarizing the plan's content.

At the meetings, participants could talk with staff, write comments on flip charts and submit comment forms. Individuals and organizations also submitted comments to WisDOT electronically and by mail.

Public supports plan's vision to enhance and connect state's multimodal system

Participants at the public meetings supported the draft plan's vision and direction for the continued development of an enhanced multimodal transportation system with improved multimodal connections. Some of the commonly received comments included:

- » Expanding intercity passenger rail service
- » Securing stable funding mechanisms for the future
- » Preserving and maintaining the existing transportation system
- » Expanding and improving public transit options and services
- » Adding bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- » Improving and expanding intermodal facilities
- » Using technology to improve traveler safety, security and efficiency
- » Coordinating land use and transportation planning to improve quality of life
- » Improving transportation safety

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Diverse outreach: a *Connections 2030* priority

To ensure broad participation in the *Connections 2030* plan review process, WisDOT conducted nine meetings across the state with the following organizations that represent minority, low-income and senior citizen groups:

- Urban League of Greater Madison
- Platteville Senior Center
- Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
- Urban League of Racine and Kenosha
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Milwaukee
- United Community Center of Milwaukee
- Spooner Senior Center
- Hmong Mutual Association of Wausau
- Green Bay Multicultural Center



Approximately 100 people participated in meetings WisDOT conducted with organizations that represent minority, low-income and senior citizen groups.

At each meeting, WisDOT presented an overview of the plan and sought feedback. About 100 people participated in these meetings. Some issues raised by minority, low-income and senior citizen groups included:

- Maintaining and expanding affordable and efficient public transportation services.
- Providing reliable and consistent public transit to job sites.
- Identifying job opportunities and providing training for transportation projects.
- Increasing intercity bus services.
- Improving transportation options for aging rural residents.
- Conducting public outreach well in advance of large infrastructure projects.

***Connections 2030* nears completion – final public comment period this summer**

The final draft of the *Connections 2030* plan has been prepared, and another public comment period has been scheduled for July 24, 2009 to August 31, 2009.

During this public comment period, WisDOT will conduct five public hearings on the final draft

of *Connections 2030* and system-plan environmental evaluation.

At the end of the public comment period, WisDOT will review all comments and determine if any final revisions to the plan are necessary. When those changes have been

incorporated, the final draft will be presented to the Secretary of Transportation for adoption.

After *Connections 2030* has been adopted as Wisconsin's long-range multimodal transportation plan, implementation and progress tracking will begin.



Input from public influences plan's recommendations

In addition to comments submitted at the public meetings, WisDOT received more than 1,200 comments via mail, e-mail, phone and the *Connections 2030* Internet site during the public comment period for the draft plan.

All comments were entered into WisDOT's computerized comment-tracking system and analyzed to develop a complete picture of the public's sentiments about the draft plan. WisDOT staff categorized and sorted the comments to determine which issues were important to the people of Wisconsin and where the plan might need to be revised to address those issues.

Changes to the draft plan included modifications to the plan's policies, clarification of plan content, and minor grammatical revisions and corrections. **One key change was the plan's policy on intercity passenger rail.** Because of the overwhelming response to this topic during the public comment period, the draft plan



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language was modified to clarify that the proposed route for the Midwest Regional Rail system between Madison and Minneapolis-St. Paul has not been finalized. WisDOT will consider all viable routes and system enhancements, including any that were not part of the *2004 Midwest Regional Rail Initiative Business Plan*.

The rail policy was further clarified to explain that in future updates of *Connections 2030* WisDOT will consider studying the potential for

expanding the intercity passenger rail system across the state including areas in north central, central and south central Wisconsin.

Another important revision to the draft plan relates to tolls on state highways. WisDOT does not currently support tolls as a source of revenue for Wisconsin. This policy was revised slightly to explain that WisDOT will consider other short-term funding options that do not require tolling arrangements.

Tracking *Connections 2030* plan progress

PHASE 1 early planning

- Define scope and focus
- Identify key issues
- Complete survey
- Hold stakeholder meetings
- Conduct focus groups

PHASE 2 pre draft plan

- Draft policies
- Initiate public review
- Hold environmental/tribal consultation meetings

PHASE 3 draft plan

- Release final draft plan
- Revise plan as necessary
- Hold statewide public meetings
- Conduct targeted outreach meetings
- Provide stakeholder group meetings

PHASE 4 final plan

- Revise as necessary
- Adopt final plan
- Conduct public hearings

WE ARE HERE

***Connections 2030*
implementation**



Connections 2030
WisDOT Bureau of Planning and Economic Development
P.O. Box 7913, Room 901
Madison, WI 53707-7913
(608) 266-8108
Web: www.wiconnections2030.gov
E-mail: connections2030@dot.state.wi.us



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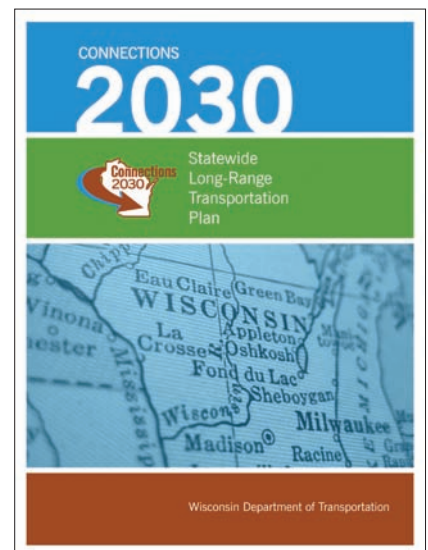


Connections 2030 overview

Connections 2030 is Wisconsin's long-range statewide multimodal plan that addresses all forms of transportation and identifies ways to make all modes work better as an integrated transportation system. The plan establishes policies to help transportation decision-makers when evaluating programs and projects.

Connections 2030 has been developed to help Wisconsin maintain and enhance its transportation system to meet the needs of the 21st century, and fulfill the state's transportation vision to provide:

An integrated multimodal transportation system that maximizes the safe and efficient movement of people



and products throughout the state, enhancing economic productivity and the quality of Wisconsin's communities while minimizing impacts to the natural environment.