

## **SEWRPC FREEWAY STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Schedule and Content**

Advisory Committee meetings are anticipated to be held throughout 2001 on the following schedule (see also Exhibit A) and on the following identified topics. At each meeting, the Commission staff will present an introduction to the topic using a Powerpoint presentation and perhaps handouts and meeting display materials. Each presentation will briefly summarize the substantive material included in the chapters of a study report. At the end of each meeting, Committee members will be provided with the report materials. Those report materials will be then subjected to a detailed technical review at a subsequent meeting of a Subcommittee of designated staff members, although Advisory Committee members are most welcome to attend the Subcommittee meetings as well. When the Subcommittee has completed its review of a given set of materials, the Advisory Committee will be provided with a final draft and be asked to act upon that final draft at a subsequent meeting. A descriptive list of the chapters to be included in the study report is attached as Exhibit B.

#### First Meeting – Early February 2001

- Introduction to Study
  - This will address the request for the study, need for the study, and study scope and schedule, including outreach and consensus building efforts. Chapter I, “Introduction,” of the study report will be distributed.
  
- Overview of Regional Freeway and Transportation System
  - This will provide a definition and description of the regional freeway system, as well as of the other components of the regional transportation system. The current and future importance of the freeway system and other components of the regional transportation system will be discussed, along with the financial resources presently used in the development and operation and maintenance of each component of the regional transportation system. Chapter 2, “Overview of Regional Freeway and Transportation System,” of the study report will be distributed.

#### Second Meeting – Mid-March 2001

- Function of Freeway System and System Segments

- This will provide a description of the function of each major segment of the freeway system, as well as the freeway system as a whole. Information to be presented will include average length of trips and origin and destinations of trips, as well as traffic volumes. The extent to which each freeway segment serves local, regional, statewide, and interstate travel will be presented. Chapter 3, “The Function of the Freeway System and its Components,” of the study report will be distributed.
  
- Condition of Freeway System and Need for Reconstruction
  - This will describe the age, construction history, and condition of each segment of the regional freeway system, identifying the expected remaining life of each freeway segment and the time period within which each freeway segment will likely require reconstruction. Chapter 4, “The Condition of the Freeway System and Need for Reconstruction,” will be distributed.

#### Third Meeting – Early April 2001

- Physical Design Problems of the Freeway System
  - This will describe for each segment of the freeway system, its physical or geometric design deficiencies, including, for example, inappropriate lane drops, substandard merging and diverging lane lengths, inadequate shoulders and lateral clearance, and substandard horizontal and vertical curvature. An initial section of Chapter 5, “Freeway System Problems and Deficiencies: Physical Design, Traffic Safety, and Traffic congestion,” addressing freeway system physical design deficiencies will be distributed.
  
- Traffic Safety Problems of the Freeway System
  - This will describe the traffic safety problems on each segment of the freeway system by identifying the number and rate of traffic accidents over the past three years. A following section of Chapter 5, “Freeway System Problems and Deficiencies: Physical Design, Traffic Safety, and Traffic Congestion,” addressing freeway system traffic safety problems will be distributed.
  
- Traffic Congestion Problems on the Freeway System
  - This will begin to address the existing, historic, and forecast future traffic congestion on the freeway system. The existing level of freeway system traffic congestion will be described and compared to historic traffic congestion. Potential future traffic congestion will begin to be explored by examining the future traffic congestion if the year 2020 regional land use and

transportation plans are fully implemented. Other alternative future scenarios under which potential future freeway system traffic congestion should be projected will be identified. An initial portion of that following section of Chapter 5, "Freeway System Problems and Deficiencies: Physical Design, Traffic Safety, and Traffic Congestion," addressing freeway system traffic congestion problems will be distributed.

#### Fourth Meeting – Mid-May 2001

- Traffic Congestion Problems on the Freeway System
  - This will address the probable future traffic congestion problems on the freeway system even if measures are implemented which go beyond the current regional year 2020 land use and transportation plans. The existing and potential range of future traffic congestion on the freeway system and each system segment will be presented. The remaining portions of that section of Chapter 5, "Freeway System Problems and Deficiencies: Physical Design, Traffic Safety, and Traffic Congestion," addressing freeway system traffic congestion will be distributed.
  
- Alternatives for Freeway Reconstruction
  - This will describe the range of alternatives which may be considered for reconstruction of each freeway segment, and propose the specific alternatives which should be designed and evaluated for each freeway segment. The possible range of alternatives includes reconstruction in kind with no improvement, reconstruction with limited redesign, reconstruction with substantial redesign, and reconstruction with substantial redesign and additional traffic lanes, as well as the potential downgrading of a freeway segment to an expressway or surface arterial. An initial section of Chapter 6, "Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Reconstruction Alternatives," will be distributed.

The future freeway system envisioned under this approach is one without addition of major new freeways or removal of major existing freeways. If any other system alternatives are to be considered, they should be identified at this meeting.

#### Fifth Meeting – Mid-June 2001

- Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Alternatives
  - This meeting will consider the design and evaluation of major freeway system alternatives in the event such alternatives are proposed. The costs and benefits of such system alternatives

with major new freeways, and/or with removal of major existing freeways, will be presented. Also at this meeting, the alternatives proposed for about 50 percent of the specific freeway segments will be presented with respect to their design and evaluation. A preliminary recommended alternative will be identified for each segment. Additional sections of Chapter 6, "Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Reconstruction Alternatives," will be distributed.

#### Sixth Meeting - Late July 2001

- Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Alternatives
  - This meeting will consider the design and evaluation of the reconstruction alternatives proposed for the remaining segments of the freeway system. A preliminary recommended alternative will be identified for each freeway segment. From the preliminary recommendations for each freeway segment, a preliminary recommended freeway system reconstruction plan will be prepared to be compared to a reconstruction "as is" alternative. If necessary, alternative system plans will be prepared for comparison and evaluation. Additional sections of Chapter 6, "Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Reconstruction Alternatives," will be distributed.

#### Seventh and Eighth Meetings - August and September 2001

- Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Alternatives and Selection of Preliminary Recommended Plan
  - These meetings will further consider the evaluation of alternative freeway system plans, and a preliminary recommended system plan will be developed. The remaining sections of Chapter 6, "Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Reconstruction Alternatives," will be distributed.

#### Ninth Meeting - November 2001

- At this meeting the results of county, municipal, and public review and comment on the preliminary plan will be considered, and a final plan and program prepared. Chapter 7, "Recommended Freeway System Plan and Program," will be distributed.



## **Exhibit B**

### **Chapter Outline of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 47**

# **A REGIONAL FREEWAY RECONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN**

## **Chapter I, “Introduction”**

This chapter will provide an introduction to the study report and describe the request for the study, the purpose of the study, and an outline of the study report.

## **Chapter II, “Overview of Regional Freeway and Transportation System”**

This chapter will provide a description of the regional freeway system as a component of the overall transportation system of the Region, and also descriptions of the other components of the regional transportation system, including surface arterial streets and highways, and public transit. The importance of the freeway and other component subsystems of the regional transportation system in providing for personal mobility and the movement of goods will be discussed. Also, the financial resources presently used in the development and operation and maintenance of each component of the regional transportation system will be presented.

## **Chapter III, “The Function of the Freeway System and its Components”**

This chapter will provide a description of the function of each major segment of the regional freeway system, as well as the freeway system as a whole. Information will be presented on the current jurisdiction and federal aid classification of each freeway segment. Also, information to be provided by freeway segment will include traffic volumes, average length of trips, and origins and destinations of trips. These data will be used to identify the extent to which each freeway segment serves local, regional, statewide, and interstate travel.

#### **Chapter IV, “The Condition of the Freeway System and Need for Reconstruction”**

This chapter will describe the age, construction history, and condition of each segment of the regional freeway system, identifying the expected remaining life of each freeway segment and the time period within which each freeway segment will likely require reconstruction.

#### **Chapter V, “Freeway System Problems and Deficiencies: Physical Design, Traffic Safety, and Traffic Congestion”**

This chapter will describe for each freeway segment and for the freeway system as a whole, its existing and potential future traffic problems and deficiencies. The physical design deficiencies of each segment of the freeway system will be identified by determining those elements of the freeway system which do not meet accepted freeway design standards, including inappropriate lane drops, substandard merging and diverging lane lengths, inadequate shoulders and lateral clearance, and substandard vertical and horizontal curvature. Also, traffic safety problems on the freeway system by segment will be identified by reviewing the number and rate of traffic accidents over the past three years. The existing and potential future traffic congestion problems on the freeway system will be identified, including that traffic congestion which may be expected to remain even with the implementation of other transportation system improvement and expansion.

#### **Chapter VI, “Design and Evaluation of Freeway System Reconstruction Alternatives”**

In this chapter, alternatives for rebuilding the freeway system by segment, and for the freeway system as a whole, will be developed and evaluated. These alternatives will address the design, safety, and congestion problems identified in the previous chapter. The alternatives to be considered will include reconstruction in kind with no improvement, reconstruction with limited redesign, reconstruction with substantial redesign, and reconstruction with substantial redesign and additional traffic lanes. Each alternative identified for each freeway segment will be evaluated with respect to broadly defined costs and benefits including construction costs, effect on design, safety and congestion problems; needed right-of-way acquisition and attendant disruption of land uses;

and environmental impacts, including air quality. Also under this chapter, a preliminary recommended freeway system plan, and possible system plan alternatives, will be developed from the review of freeway segment alternatives. This chapter will also document the reaction and comments received on the preliminary plan from the seven county boards and county executives, municipal units of government, state legislators, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, businesses, and the public. The comments received will shape the final recommended plan.

### **Chapter VII, “Recommended Freeway System Plan and Program”**

This chapter will describe the final recommended freeway system plan and its costs and benefits. A program to implement the plan will also be prepared, including time schedule, and identification of available funding revenue and funding shortfalls.

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