
11.0 NEPA Scoping

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FTA's May 2006 *Guidance on New Starts Policies and Procedures* requires a project to have progressed beyond the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping phase before entering into New Starts preliminary engineering. Two scoping meetings for Transport 2020 were held on April 26, 2006. All interested individuals, organizations, businesses, and federal, state, and local agencies were invited to comment on the purpose and need, project alternatives and scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This input process was divided into two related meetings.

First, an Agency Scoping Meeting comprised of representatives from federal, state, and municipal agencies were provided with a presentation on the Transport 2020 study effort and alternatives considered, a bus tour of the study corridor, and opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Second, a Public Scoping Meeting was conducted in an open house format which included both a formal presentation as well as study team representatives available to answer questions. Participants were encouraged to fill out a comment form on the range of alternatives considered, issues to be addressed, and the study process itself.

Contributions to the scoping process from environmental stakeholders were included in the scoping report, which is included at the end of this section.

In addition to the scoping meetings, planning for Transport 2020 has provided for ongoing public involvement in the development and screening of alternatives. Following is a list of major meetings held since the April 2006 scoping meetings:

Public Meetings

- Neighborhood workshops (September 26 and 27, 2006)
- Public information meeting (May 3, 2007)

Stakeholder Meetings

- Land use workshop with local developers and planning staff (May 11 and 12, 2006)
- Project open house (September 6 and 7, 2006)
- Wisconsin and Southern Railroad (May 26, July 13, September 25, 2006)
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (July 26, 2006)

- Wisconsin Commissioner of Railroads (July 26, 2006)
- Meriter Hospital (August 17, 2006)
- Rotary Club (August 30, 2006)
- Downtown Madison, Inc. (September 6, 2006)
- Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce (October 19, 2006)
- East Isthmus Neighborhood Planning Council (October 19, 2006)
- Local planners, developers, and land use experts (Fall 2006)
- UW Hospitals (August 2006, January 9, 2007)
- Local government meeting/Sun Prairie and Fitchburg) (February 19, 2007)

Study Oversight Committee

- Implementation Task Force Meetings (January 26- present, nearly monthly basis). At each meeting, an opportunity is provided for public comment.
- Transit Operations Subcommittee (March 15, June 19, July 12, September 6, November 2, December 7, 2006 and February 21, 2007)
- Finance and Governance Subcommittee (March 1, 23, 29, May 10, August 3, September 5, 2006 and April 10, 2007)

Additionally ongoing opportunities for public involvement include a project web site to provide updates on Transport 2020 and its progress, available at www.transport2020.net.