

May 27, 2003

Mike Berg, Director
Department of Transportation, District 4
1618 Second Avenue South
P.O. Box 8021
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8021

Subject: Highway 10 Bypass Project

Dear Mr. Berg,

Discussion of the Highway 10 bypass through the Town of Stockton has raised the anxiety, fears, and frustrations of residents throughout our township for many years. After much study and consideration by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), the spectrum of options has been narrowed to four alternatives through Stockton, with some variation to each alternative. Basically, the DOT is proposing to construct a 4 lane, 65 mph highway from County Trunk Highway (CTH) K to I-39 along either 5th Street, 6th Street, between 5th and 6th Streets or on a majority of the existing Highway 10 right of way. While it has been our preference to remain within existing Hwy 10 all the way to I-39, it is our understanding, due to the high cost of improvements through the "business district", this alternative has been eliminated from further study. We also understand that each of the alternatives under consideration come together to one proposed interchange at I-39 between CTH HH and Porter Road.

From the very beginning of this process, the Town of Stockton has been vehemently opposed to any alternative that would further divide our township. With CTH B to the south, and existing Highway 10 and the railroad corridor through the center, another east-west thoroughfare would completely dissect our community. Highway options between 5th and 6th Streets would not only be devastating to the residents and to the farmers who depend upon the land for subsistence, it would have long ranging impacts to the future planning, development, growth and preservation of this pristine landscape.

In an effort to quantify the opinions and frustrations of the residents within Stockton, the Town Board mailed the "Hwy 10 Bypass Survey" to residents in January 2003, asking for their choice in alignment and to solicit comments. Over 70% of the respondents favored project alignment options that would use the existing Highway 10 corridor from CTH K through the CTH J interchange. A majority of those who commented believe this option will have the least impact to the Town, and feel it is senseless to deviate from the existing right of way.

In concert with the overwhelming majority of residents and in keeping with our strategic plan for future development, the Town of Stockton wishes to formally advise the Wisconsin DOT of our unwavering resolve to ensure the new highway remains within the existing Highway 10 corridor from CTH K through the CTH J interchange. In addition, when designing the section of highway from CTH J to the HH/Porter Road interchange, we ask that the DOT work closely with the Town when developing new right of way in order to minimize the impacts to our residents. We realize this entire segment of highway will have many challenges. Providing convenient and timely access to residents and businesses along Highway 10 is of the utmost importance. We feel confident however, that together we can work through all of these challenges.

Please formally advise us of your intentions to work with us on maximizing the use of the existing Highway 10 corridor for the new alignment. According to the latest DOT schedule, the Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed in the fall and a final alignment selection will follow shortly thereafter. Representatives of District 4 have stated they expect the EA for all options to result in a “finding of no significant impact”. With no significant impacts anticipated, it will be to the benefit of all involved to understand your intentions at this time rather than waiting until the EA is complete.

We look forward to working together on this important project and to achieving our mutual goal of efficiently serving our state and local community well into the future. As with previous Town correspondence, please include this letter as part of the public record on this issue.

Sincerely,
Stockton Town Board

Ronald Borski
Chairman

Chris Pehoski
Supervisor

Robert Cychosz
Supervisor

Copy: Frank Busalacchi, Transportation Secretary
Cameron Bump, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Peter Nauth, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Herb Kohl, U.S. Senator
Russ Feingold, U.S. Senator
Dave Obey, U.S. Representative, 7th Congressional District
Julie Lassa, State Senator, 24th District
Garvey and Stoddard Law Firm