



# Utility Coordination Newsletter

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## NORMAN'S CORNER

Welcome to Spring! Hopefully you had a nice winter and will find time for a break to recharge. With spring comes the time for our state and local road construction projects to ramp up, so please make sure you have taken your safety training and are well prepared for the construction season.

UN #21-3

### 2023 Wisconsin Act 46

On December 6, 2023, Governor Evers signed into law 2023 Wisconsin Act 46. It creates/amends sections of Wis. Stat. § 84.063, which is the basis for Wis. Admin. Code Ch. Trans 220 and pertains to utility facility relocations. The legislative change establishes a process for compensating a contractor for costs incurred due to a utility relocation delay and addresses responsibility for these costs.

UN #21-2

### Interim NLEB Bat Guidance Extended

USFWS announced an extension to their interim northern long-eared bat (NLEB) guidance and tools. The interim process was set to expire on April 1, 2024, but the Service required additional time to prepare their final guidance for the endangered bat.

UN #21-8



### New TUMS Effort

TUMS (Transportation Utility Management Systems). Is an IT systems tool that helps the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Utility Coordinators manage multiple utility coordination projects and addresses the laws and milestones required by Wisconsin Statute 84.063 and Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter Trans 220.

UN #21-6



### Permitting and Accommodation Updates

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is in the process of revising its 3D utility as-built location data policy, along with other key policies.

UN #21-5



### Statewide Summary of Utility Conflict Reports

The Utility Conflict Report is a tool used to document utility issues on all highway projects. The effects of utility-related issues and delays are documented for all projects LET by WisDOT and the report tool aids in developing directed solutions to help alleviate adverse utility effects on projects.

UN #21-7

### New Statute Has Big Impacts on WisDOT Setbacks

On March 21, 2024, the Wisconsin governor signed into law Wis. Stat. 86.074, which has a significant impact on setback requirements on state trunk highways in Wisconsin.

UN #21-1

### WisDOT Six Year Highway Improvement Program

The WisDOT Six Year Program map is a great way to gather insight into projects happening around the state. This interactive map is updated weekly and available online at: <https://wisdot.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html> under the Projects section's Improvement Program link.

UN #21-4



## 2023 WisDOT Statewide Utility Conference

This past fall, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) hosted the 2023 Statewide Utility Conference at the Glacier Canyon Conference Center at the Wilderness Resort in the Wisconsin Dells.

UN #21-14



## Welcome, New Hires!



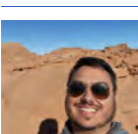
### We are pleased to welcome Jimmy Okech to the Utilities Unit as an IT Project Manager and Lead Technical Support Business Area Expert (BAE).

Jimmy was born in Kisumu, Kenya, East Africa where he was one of seven children raised on a farm. "My parents always taught me one thing about life: Be disciplined and get the job done." He now has a Master of Science degree in Computer Information Systems focusing on IT security and project management. He brings over five years of experience working as an IT Project Manager and Technical Support Service Provider for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Jimmy's wife is from Grand Rapids, MN, which he now calls home, and he has become a passionate Vikings fan. When not at work, he loves to dance, sing, play soccer, camp, and travel. He loves the outdoors and refuses to let cold weather and snow defeat him. Being from Minnesota, this means hosting lots of winter campfires!

When asked why he joined WisDOT, Jimmy says, "A better question would be 'Why didn't I join WisDOT sooner?' I admire WisDOT and its initiatives – its mission and dedication to the great people of Wisconsin. I also know that I have a responsibility to provide, support, and lead when it comes to IT services and project management. And honestly, I enjoy being the best at what I do and being with those who strive daily to do their best for others to build a better community. WisDOT gave me the best chance and opportunity to be a part of this great team or effort and I plan to do my best to keep that flame. I wanted to be a great addition and an asset to the continued success of services we provide to the wonderful citizens and taxpayers in Wisconsin, always striving to save money for the state and its welfare while providing the best services."

UN #21-9



### We are pleased to introduce Nathan Kabir, the Utility Unit's new FHWA Contact.

Nathan has been with FHWA for seven years, but only with the division office for a year this May. The other six years he worked in the Federal Lands Division managing and inspecting construction projects in National Parks, National Forests, and Military installations from Norfolk, VA to Truckee, CA.

As the new FHWA Utility Coordinator Contact, he will be involved with items of FHWA interest such as EV infrastructure, relocation processes and procedures, and more. He is also interested in broadband

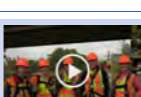
infrastructure and Local Program initiatives. Nathan graduated from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

UN #21-11

## Keep Us Safe

Keep us Safe is a public service announcement featuring WisDOT staff.

UN #21-12



## Recruiting Interns

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is currently recruiting for Engineering Internship and Co-Op opportunities for the summer of 2024.

UN #21-13

Interested in Past Volumes of the Utility Coordination Newsletter?

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To subscribe; submit questions, suggestions, comments, or potential newsletter articles; please send an email to [DOTDOTSDCOUtilityCoordination@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTDOTSDCOUtilityCoordination@dot.wi.gov). BTS Utility Unit will review each submission prior to publication.

This bulletin has been developed to provide updates, clarifications, job aids and news pertaining to WisDOT utility coordination and related WisDOT programs, policy and services. Information published in this bulletin will be of interest to those who work closely with utility coordination.