

SECTION 2
PUBLIC, LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

2.01 PUBLIC, LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

FHWA was the Federal-Lead Agency on the Beltline PEL Study, while WisDOT was the State-Lead Agency. Throughout the Beltline PEL Study, FHWA and WisDOT were referred to as Joint-Lead Agencies. As a Joint-Lead Agency, WisDOT initiated coordination with Native American Tribes, other state and federal resource agencies, and local municipalities with an invitation to participate in this Beltline PEL Study in May 2013. The state and federal resource agencies and local municipalities invited to participate in the Beltline PEL Study included:

- FHWA
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Native American Tribes
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
- Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Dane County
- Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC)
- City of Madison
- City of Madison Metro Transit (Metro)
- Downtown Madison, Inc.
- City of Fitchburg
- City of Middleton
- City of Monona
- City of Stoughton
- City of Sun Prairie
- City of Verona
- Village of Cottage Grove
- Village of DeForest
- Village of Shorewood Hills
- Village of McFarland
- Village of Oregon
- Village of Waunakee
- Village of Windsor
- Town of Blooming Grove
- Town of Burke
- Town of Cottage Grove
- Town of Dunn
- Town of Madison
- Town of Middleton

- Town of Pleasant Springs
- Town of Springfield
- Town of Verona
- Town of Vienna
- Town of Westport

The Beltline PEL Study obtained a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2015 that fostered communication and collaboration in the Beltline PEL Study process among the state and federal resources agencies. Signatories on the MOU included:

- FHWA
- FTA
- USEPA
- USACE
- NPS
- WisDOT
- WDNR
- DATCP

A copy of the MOU is included in Appendix B of this report.

As mentioned, the Beltline PEL Study process also established two advisory committees, the TAC and PAC, to guide the development of the Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives, as well as the development and review of improvement Components and Strategies. The TAC consisted of technical staff from agencies and local municipalities and the PAC consisted of local elected officials and other municipal and stakeholder representatives. Agencies, municipalities, and organizations represented by TAC and PAC members (unless noted otherwise) included:

- 1000 Friends of Wisconsin¹
- CARPC
- City of Fitchburg
- City of Madison
- City of Middleton¹
- City of Monona
- City of Stoughton
- City of Sun Prairie
- City of Verona
- Dane County
- Downtown Madison, Inc.¹
- Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Madison Bikes, Inc.¹
- Town of Cottage Grove¹

¹PAC member only

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- Town of Dunn²
- Town of Middleton
- Town of Pleasant Springs
- Town of Springfield
- Town of Verona
- Town of Westport
- University of Wisconsin (UW)—Madison¹
- Village of Cottage Grove
- Village of Deforest²
- Village of McFarland
- Village of Oregon
- Village of Waunakee
- Village of Windsor

A *Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement* (Coordination Plan) was developed to communicate how and when the lead agencies, WisDOT and FHWA, would coordinate public and agency participation and comment in the planning and environmental review processes for the Beltline PEL Study. The document was intended to be a dynamic document available to stakeholders and was updated as appropriate throughout the duration of the study. Since it was initially provided to Native American Tribes, agencies, and local municipalities in October 2013, the Coordination Plan was updated six times with the last update in September 2023. To facilitate public and agency involvement in the planning and environmental review process, a number of coordination and comment points were established. Comment points were occasions in the study process when the lead agencies requested written feedback from cooperating and participating agencies, related to draft documents. Table 2.01-1 lists the five comment points for the Beltline PEL Study.

Comment Point	Description
1	Provide written comments on draft documents: Beltline PEL Study Work Plan, Coordination Plan, Problem Statement, Goal and Objectives, and MOU.
2	Provide written comments on development of criteria for screening (that also address social, cultural, and environmental resources) of potential corridor solutions.
3	Provide written comments on identification and dismissal of Stand-Alone Strategies.
4	Provide written comments on screening of Strategy Packages, which include multiple mode improvements to address Beltline PEL Study Objectives.
5	Provide written comments on Draft Beltline PEL Study Summary Report (including Strategies recommended for further evaluation in future NEPA documents, and identification of potential mitigation opportunities).

Table 2.01-1 Comment Points for Public and Agency Involvement in the Beltline PEL Study

¹PAC member only

²TAC member only

The Beltline PEL Study was put on hold in 2016 while WisDOT assessed planning priorities statewide. Coordination with Native American Tribes, state and federal resource agencies, and local municipalities was restarted in 2021. Following the designation of the UW–Madison Arboretum as a National Historic Landmark in January 2021, invitations to participate in the Beltline PEL Study of the Beltline were mailed to the NPS and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on September 24, 2021.

The study process included numerous meetings with agencies, TAC, PAC, local municipality committees and boards, neighborhoods, and stakeholder groups. Table 2.01-2 lists the meetings and presentations to agency and municipal organizations.

Table 2.01-2 Meetings and Presentations to Local Municipalities, State and Federal Agencies, and Public Involvement Meeting (PIM) Series

Date	Meeting	Content
5/8/13	Local Officials Introduction Meeting with city of Monona, village of McFarland, and Dane County	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study to local officials to gain input and involvement and invite participation.
5/15/13	Local Officials Introduction Meeting with the city of Fitchburg, city of Stoughton, city of Verona, and village of Oregon	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study to local officials to gain input and involvement and invite participation.
5/15/13	Local Officials Introduction Meeting with city of Middleton, village of Waunakee, and town of Westport	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study to local officials to gain input and involvement and invite participation.
5/30/13	Kickoff Agency Meeting with Federal and State Agency Representatives	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study to federal and state agencies; discussion to obtain comments on Draft Beltline PEL Study documents: Draft MOU, Draft Coordination Plan, Draft Problem Statement, Goal and Objectives.
7/9/13	Briefing with the city of Madison Mayor and Staff	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study.
7/22/13	Kickoff TAC Meeting	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study. Development of Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives.
7/25/13	City of Madison Long-Range Transportation Committee Update	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study. Discussion of Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives.
7/29/13	Kickoff PAC Meeting	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study. Development of Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives.
8/6/13	City of Madison City Council	Introduction of the Beltline PEL Study. Discussion of Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives.
9/9 through 9/23/13	PIM Series 1 (5 meetings, 5 locations)	Corridor importance, data collection and findings, current and anticipated needs, Beltline PEL Study process, Draft Goal and Objectives.
9/30/13	TAC Meeting No. 2	Review and refinement of Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives; discussed and approved screening criteria.

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Date	Meeting	Content
10/2/13	PAC Meeting No. 2	Review and refinement of Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives; discussed and approved screening criteria.
10/30/13	TAC Meeting No. 3	Development of Strategies and Packages for testing and evaluation.
11/6/13	Agency Meeting–Comment Point 1 and 2	Review and refinement of Problem Statement, Goal, and Objectives; provided study update and discussed screening criteria. <u>Comment Point 1</u> –Received written comments on initial Beltline PEL Study documents. <u>Comment Point 2</u> –Received written comments on screening criteria.
11/13/13	PAC Meeting No. 3	Development of Strategy Packages for testing and evaluation.
12/12/13	PAC Meeting No. 4	Continuation of development of Strategy Packages for testing and evaluation.
4/3/14	TAC Meeting No. 4	Reviewed North Mendota corridors and transit Strategies, such as commuter rail and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), as Stand-Alone Strategies.
4/22/14	PAC Meeting No. 5	Reviewed North Mendota corridors and new transit Strategies as Stand-Alone Strategies.
6/12/14	TAC Meeting No. 5	Reviewed South Reliever concepts as Stand-Alone Strategies. Update on Transit Modeling as Stand-Alone Strategies.
6/23/14	PAC Meeting No. 6	Reviewed South Reliever concepts as Stand-Alone Strategies. Update on Transit Modeling as Stand-Alone Strategies.
9/10/14	TAC Meeting No. 6	Reviewed Demand Modeling results for the Beltline and connections. Also reviewed the recently compiled survey results from the UW Survey Center.
9/16/14	PAC Meeting No. 7	Reviewed Demand Modeling results for the Beltline and connections. Also reviewed the recently compiled survey results from the UW Survey Center.
10/1/14	TAC Meeting No. 7	Review new Beltline crossings and connections for merit. Review interchange removals and modifications for merit.
10/15/14	PAC Meeting No. 8	Review new Beltline crossings and connections for merit. Review interchange removals and modifications for merit.
11/11 through 12/3/14	PIM Series 2 (8 meetings, 6 locations)	Current and anticipated needs, Beltline PEL Study process, Goal and Objectives, UW Survey Center results, Stand-Alone Strategies evaluation, and next steps.
11/13/14	Agency Meeting–Comment Point 3	Update on the Beltline PEL Study. <u>Comment Point 3</u> –Received written comments on Stand-Alone Strategies screening.
1/22/2015	PAC Meeting No. 9	Review Scenario B, compact urban growth on traffic volumes; review scenario for increased transit/bicycle on traffic volumes; review types of Beltline transit opportunities to be evaluated.

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Date	Meeting	Content
1/29/2015	TAC Meeting No. 8	Review Scenario B, compact urban growth on traffic volumes; Review scenario for increased transit/bicycle on traffic volumes, review types of Beltline transit opportunities to be evaluated.
5/15/2015	Preliminary Mitigation Discussion with WDNR Staff	Discussed potential minimization and mitigation measures for the Capital Springs E-Way.
6/9/2015	Preliminary Mitigation Discussion with UW-Arboretum Staff	Discussed potential minimization and mitigation measures for the UW-Arboretum.
9/14/2015	PAC Meeting No. 10	Introduction to Components and screening.
9/17/2015	TAC Meeting No. 9	Introduction to Components and screening.
10/13/2015	TAC Meeting No. 10	Continued discussion of Components and screening. Introduction to Strategy Packages.
10/14/2015	PAC Meeting No. 11	Continued discussion of Components. Introduction to Strategy Packages.
11/2 through 11/18/15	PIM Series 3 (8 meetings, 6 locations)	Current and anticipated needs, and Beltline PEL Study process, Objectives, Strategies development and evaluation, and next steps.
12/16/2015	FHWA/WisDOT Interagency Meeting	Provided the presentation from the recent PIMs, including Components, screening, and Strategy Packages.
5/20/2021	TAC Meeting No. 11	Reengaged with TAC after study pause; continued discussion of Components, screening, and Strategy Packages.
6/3/2021	PAC Meeting No. 12	Reengaged with PAC after study pause; continued discussion of Components, screening, and Strategy Packages.
1/27/2022	TAC Meeting No. 12	Continued discussion of Components and screening. Introduction to Strategy Packages.
2/3/2022	PAC Meeting No. 13	Continued discussion of Components. Introduction to Strategy Packages.
4/12 through 4/13/22	PIM Series 4 (2 meetings, 2 locations)	Reengage the public after study pause, remind the public of the study efforts to date, Goal, and Objectives, present the Stand-Alone Strategies dismissed from further consideration in the Beltline PEL Study, present Component Concepts for input, and explain next steps.
5/3/2023	FHWA/WisDOT Interagency Meeting	Provide update on the Beltline PEL Study and preview upcoming TAC and PAC Meeting Nos. 13 and 14.
5/18/2023	TAC Meeting No. 13 PAC Meeting No. 14	Combined meeting to update the TAC and PAC on the status of the Beltline Flex Lane, summarize outreach since the last meeting, present Component priorities, and present the Draft Strategy Packages.
6/6 through 6/7/2023	PIM Series 5 (2 meetings, 2 locations)	Update the public on the status of the Beltline Flex Lane, summarize outreach since the last meeting, present Component priorities, and present the Draft Strategy Packages for input, and explain next steps.
8/28/2023	Indirect and Cumulative Impacts Expert Panel Workshop	Mapping exercise and discussion of potential indirect and cumulative impacts identified by expert panelists.

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Date	Meeting	Content
9/29/2023	Agency Meeting–Comment Point 4	Update on the Beltline PEL Study. <u>Comment Point 4</u> –Received written comments on Components Prioritization and screening of Strategy Packages.
4/30/2024	TAC Meeting No. 14	Combined meeting to present the Preferred Strategy Package and potential NEPA sections and staging.
4/30/2024	PAC Meeting No. 15	Combined meeting to present the Preferred Strategy Package and potential NEPA Sections and Staging.
5/28 through 5/29/2024	PIM Series 6 (2 meetings with 1 virtual meeting and 1 in-person meeting)	Present the Preferred Strategy Package and potential NEPA sections and staging.
6/25/2024	Agency Meeting–Comment Point 5 Draft Preferred Strategy Package	<u>Comment Point 5</u> –Received written comments on the Draft Beltline PEL Study Preferred Strategy Package.
TBD	TAC Meeting No. 15	Draft Beltline PEL Study Summary Report
TBD	PAC Meeting No. 16	Draft Beltline PEL Study Summary Report
TBD	Agency Correspondence–Comment Point 5 Draft Beltline PEL Study Summary Report	<u>Comment Point 5</u> –Written comments on the Draft Beltline PEL Study Summary Report.