

Chippewa Valley Corridor – Twin Cities, MN to Eau Claire

Corridor Overview

This 80-mile corridor is part of a major passenger and freight corridor linking the Twin Cities, southern Wisconsin and Chicago, IL. It also provides critical economic links for the growing west central Wisconsin region, as well as Green Bay and the Fox Valley, to the fast growing Twin Cities metro area. St. Croix County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state as it becomes part of the extended Twin Cities metro area. The corridor includes the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Highway (I-94 from the Illinois/Wisconsin state line to the Minnesota/Wisconsin state line). It also includes the urban and urbanized areas of Hudson, River Falls, Menomonie and Eau Claire.



Current Corridor Characteristics

- Airports:
 - › Air carrier (passenger) airport: Chippewa Valley Regional
 - › Transport/corporate airport: Menomonie Municipal
- Highways:
 - › Primary state highways: I-94, US 53, WIS 29, WIS 35
 - › Corridors 2030 Backbone Routes: I-94, US 53
 - › Corridors 2030 Connector Route: WIS 35
- Public Transit:
 - › Bus systems: Eau Claire
 - › Shared-ride taxi: River Falls, Chippewa Falls
 - › Specialized transit: Available in all counties; level of service depends on location
- Fixed Guideway Transit: None along this corridor
- Rail Freight: Freight rail service exists
- Intercity Passenger Rail: None along this corridor
- Intercity Bus: Service between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Chicago, IL, with a stop in Eau Claire
- Ports and Harbors: None along this corridor
- Ferry: None along this corridor
- Bicycle/Pedestrian:
 - › Major trails: Red Cedar State Trail, Chippewa River State Trail
 - › Accommodations, linkages and accessibility along and across some facilities

Future Corridor Vision

- Airports: Continued service, increased direct air service and infrastructure projects to support business airplane-capable airports
- Highways: Maximized preservation and maintenance of infrastructure and continued user efficiency and mobility, including improved traffic movement, along I-94, US 53, WIS 29 and WIS 35 by implementing the *State Access Management Plan* vision:
 - › Tier 1; I-94, US 53, portions of WIS 29
 - › Tier 2A; WIS 35 (I-94 to River Falls)
- Public Transit: Increased regional coordination and continued service
- Fixed Guideway Transit: None along this corridor
- Rail Freight: Continued freight service and corridor preservation
- Intercity Passenger Rail:
 - › New Service:
 - Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN - Madison - Milwaukee - and Chicago, IL intercity passenger rail service
 - All new intercity passenger rail services will operate within existing corridors
- Intercity Bus:
 - › Continued existing services
 - › New service:
 - Phase 1: Between Eau Claire and Duluth/Superior, with a stop in Chippewa Falls; and between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Green Bay, with stop in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire
 - Phase 2: Between Eau Claire and Tomah passenger rail station
- Ports and Harbors: None along this corridor
- Ferry: None along this corridor
- Bicycle/Pedestrian: Continued and enhanced accommodations and linkages along and across facilities

	Year 2007	Year 2030
County populations		
St. Croix	79,020	106,026
Pierce	40,235	45,850
Dunn	43,118	50,656
Chippewa	61,604	65,723
Eau Claire	98,000	117,253
Population age 65 and older	33,667	77,177
Enplanements		
Chippewa Valley Regional Airport	22,832	44,000
Average annual daily traffic along		
I-94	23,200 – 50,400	36,600 – 121,900
US 53	19,700 – 24,900	25,800 – 34,800
WIS 29	9,600 – 11,700	12,000 – 15,500
WIS 35	16,900 – 19,200	17,300 – 19,000
Truck volume along		
I-94	High	High
US 53	Medium	High
WIS 29	Medium	Medium
WIS 35	Low	Low

Refer to the “Corridor Map - Data Definitions and Sources” for more information.



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Existing Facilities

- Airport
- Park and ride
- Intercity bus stop
- Rail station
- Fixed guideway (commuter rail station)
- Port or harbor
- Mississippi River lock and dam
- Ferry
- Bicycle/pedestrian trail
- Rail-to-trail
- Railroad – private ownership
- Railroad – public ownership
- State trunk network
- State/county boundary
- Waterway
- City/village
- Metropolitan Planning Area
- Native American land

Priority Project Action Areas

Interchange

- Study and/or preserve right of way
- Study and construct new
- Reconstruct existing

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Provide urban connection
- Provide rural connection

Bridge

- Reconstruct existing or construct new

Intercity Passenger Rail

- Proposed station
- Proposed station with intercity bus stop
- Study future route
- Priority route

Highways

- Construct capacity project
- Prepare corridor plan
- Reconstruct existing
- Construct passing lane
- Convert to Interstate standards
- Study bypass/new arterial

Priority Project Support Areas

Airport

- Airport project

Intercity Bus

- Intercity bus stop
- Priority route

Park and Ride

- Park and ride

Port, Channel or Waterway

- Port, channel or waterway project

Ferry

- Ferry project

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Trail connection or extension
- Rail-to-trail

Fixed Guideway

- Commuter, rapid or express bus route
- Study future route
- Commuter rail route
- Commuter rail, proposed station

Important Notes about What is Depicted

The map shows currently programmed and proposed future activities (as of December 31, 2007) that have significant impacts on the corridor. Not all projects or initiatives are mapped, and additional analyses, including an environmental document, will be conducted before any of the projects or activities are completed. These analyses may include studying alternatives (including a no build/no change alternative) with public involvement opportunities as appropriate. Resources and shifting priorities may impact WisDOT's implementation of any proposed activity within the time frames identified. WisDOT will remain flexible in the implementation of *Connections 2030* recommendations. The map and table activities on the following page reflect actions identified in:

- *Connections 2030* policies
- WisDOT's Six-Year Highway Improvement Program (2008 - 2013)
- Other WisDOT program data
- Other WisDOT plans and studies
- Metropolitan planning organizations' (MPOs), regional planning commissions' (RPCs) and tribal long-range transportation plans

For information on funding and implementation priorities, see those *Connections 2030* chapters. For more information on transportation projects, contact the WisDOT Region Office (see *Connections 2030* or www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/ for a map of region offices). MPO, RPC and tribal long-range transportation plans offer recommendations on all transportation modes within their boundaries.

For more information, refer to the Corridor Map Legend Definitions document at www.wiconnections2030.gov.



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Current and Proposed Future Activities

These activities may not occur in the time frame identified due to budget constraints, changing conditions or shifting priorities. Refer to the “Important Notes about What is Depicted” for more information or contact the WisDOT Region Office.

Short-Term (2008 – 2013)

I-94	Rehabilitate and widen bridge at County Rd E (Dunn Co) and I-94 east of Menomonie; replace bridges at Stokke Parkway (Dunn Co) and I-94 and at 970th St/Evergreen Rd and I-94
I-94	Reconstruct from WIS 65 (Roberts) to US 12 (Hudson)
I-94	Study interchange reconstruction at WIS 35 north and I-94; WIS 35 south and I-94; and US 12 and I-94
I-94	Reconstruct existing interchange at WIS 65 and I-94 if supported by environmental document
I-94	Prepare plan in cooperation with the city of Menomonie to develop an official map of I-94 alternative route and future local arterials to provide congestion relief to US 12, WIS 25 and WIS 29
US 63	Construct candidate passing lanes from County Rd E (St Croix Co) to WIS 64 if supported by environmental document
WIS 35	Study and construct new interchange at Radio Rd (St Croix County) and WIS 35
Fixed Guideway	Support the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council’s study of potential commuter rail service between Roberts and the Twin Cities, MN and Somerset and the Twin Cities, MN, as part of the Council’s 2030 Transit Master Plan Update
Intercity Bus	Support new intercity bus service between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Green Bay with stops in Hudson, Menomonie, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, Wausau and Shawano

Mid-Term (2014 – 2019)

I-94	Replace bridge at the Red Cedar River near Menomonie and I-94 if supported by environmental document
US 63	Replace bridge over the Rush River if supported by environmental document
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide rural accommodations along WIS 29 from WIS 35/WIS 65 (River Falls) to 900th St (St. Croix Co)
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide urban and rural accommodations along US 12 through Baldwin from 80th Ave (Baldwin) to 230th St (St. Croix Co)
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide urban and rural accommodations along WIS 29 and WIS 29/US 12 through Menomonie from County Rd K (Dunn Co) to County Rd E (Dunn Co)
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide urban and rural accommodations along US 12 from WIS 29 (Menomonie) to County Rd K (Dunn Co)
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Support construction of a path system related to the Stillwater Bridge project; and construction of an adjoining path along WIS 35 to I-94
Intercity Passenger Rail	Implement intercity passenger rail service between Minneapolis/St Paul, MN and Chicago, IL via Eau Claire with proposed stops in Hudson, Menomonie, Eau Claire, Wisconsin Dells, Portage, Madison, Watertown, Oconomowoc, Brookfield, Milwaukee, General Mitchell International Airport and Sturtevant and/or via La Crosse with proposed stops in La Crosse, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Portage, Madison, Watertown, Oconomowoc, Brookfield, Milwaukee, General Mitchell International Airport and Sturtevant. Implementation will be based on results of environmental study

Long-Term (2020 – 2030)

I-94	Replace bridge at Eau Galle River and I-94 if supported by environmental document
I-94	Reconstruct from WIS 65 (Roberts) to WIS 312 if supported by environmental document
I-94	Reconstruct existing interchanges at US 12/ WIS 29 and I-94 if supported by environmental document
I-94	Prepare corridor plan from Minnesota/Wisconsin state line to WIS 63
US 12/63	Construct bypass of Baldwin and candidate expressway upgrades from I-94 to WIS 64 if supported by environmental document
WIS 35	Convert to freeway from River Falls municipal limits to I-94 if supported by environmental document
WIS 65	Construct bypass of Roberts and construct candidate expressway upgrades from I-94 to New Richmond municipal limits if supported by environmental document
Park & Ride	Support potential park and ride construction near the intersection of I-94 and WIS 128 and near the travel information center along I-94 in Hudson if supported by environmental document

Entire Planning Period

US 12/63	Study interchange and/or preserve right-of-way at US 63 and US 12 if supported by environmental document
US 12/WIS 65	Study interchange and/or preserve right-of-way at WIS 65 and US 12 if supported by environmental document
US 63	Construct candidate passing lanes from WIS 63/72 split to Florence St if supported by environmental document
WIS 65	Construct candidate passing lanes from US 10/ US 63 to River Falls municipal limit if supported by environmental document
Airports	Support continued preservation, maintenance and infrastructure projects at <i>State Airport System Plan</i> airports
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Support accommodations and linkages to create a connected network that provides accessibility along and across facilities
Intercity Bus	Support continued intercity service between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Chicago, IL with stops in Eau Claire, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Madison and Beloit; and between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Chicago, IL with stops in Eau Claire, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Madison and Milwaukee
Intercity Passenger Rail	Study the potential for serving West Central, North Central, Central and South Central Wisconsin and implement the results of the studies
Intercity Passenger Rail	Work with the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads to preserve intercity passenger rail corridors by discouraging new at-grade crossings of the corridors
Local Roads	Support continued preservation, maintenance and infrastructure projects
Park & Ride	Support continued preservation and maintenance
Park & Ride	Support expansion of existing park and ride facilities, if needed and if supported by environmental document
Public Transit	Support continued shared-ride taxi service in River Falls
Public Transit	Work with counties and transit service providers to coordinate and expand rural transit service
Rail Freight	Support the preservation of existing freight services and corridors
Specialized Transit	Support continued service and encourage improved service coordination
State Highways	Construct grade separations at rail crossings if supported by environmental document
State Highways	Preserve and maintain infrastructure
State Highways	Improve traffic movement with traffic operations infrastructure strategies

About Multimodal Corridors

The *Connections 2030* planning process identified statewide multimodal, intercity corridors as visual communication tools to view existing conditions, transportation features and future recommendations. These corridors collectively represent a starting point toward long-term implementation of *Connections 2030* and the corridor management process.

These multimodal corridors:

- Serve critical sectors of the economy or major population centers
- Carry significant travel activity for passenger and/or freight traffic
- Show significant growth in travel or economic development
- Serve an important role for other transportation modes

Corridor selection was also influenced by local land use and development plans. Each corridor is a broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting trips that may include streets, highways, rail, pedestrian, bicycle facilities and routes and transit route alignments. A corridor generally follows the directional flow of a state highway alignment. It includes parallel state and local roads, service roads and facilities for other transportation modes, such as rail, pedestrian, and transit, which influence the mobility, capacity, safety and other functional elements of the corridor.



Corridor Map – Data Definitions and Sources

Data Definitions

Corridors 2030

(See *Connections 2030 Chapter 5, Preserve and Maintain Wisconsin's Transportation System, for more information.*)

- Backbone system: Multilane, divided highways interconnecting all major population and economic centers of the state and linking them to the national transportation network
- Connector system: Two- and four-lane highways directly linking other significant economic and tourism centers to the Backbone system

State Access Management Plan vision

(See *Connections 2030 Chapter 9, Promote Transportation Efficiencies, for more information.*)

- Tier 1: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at interchanges (with some existing safely spaced, locked and gated emergency vehicle driveways and a few isolated field entrances possible at select locations)
- Tier 2A: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at at-grade public road intersections (with some existing safely spaced, locked and gated emergency vehicle driveways and few isolated field entrances)
- Tier 2B: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at at-grade public road intersections with some existing safely spaced, lower volume private, residential, field or emergency service driveways
- Tier 3: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will primarily be at at-grade public road intersections with some existing safely spaced, higher volume private, residential and field or emergency service driveways
- Tier 4: By 2030, in rural areas (outside of city and village boundaries), access to the highway will be at safely spaced driveways and roads

State Airport System Plan classifications

- Air carrier (passenger)/air cargo: Designed to accommodate virtually all aircraft up to and, in some cases, including wide body jets and large military transports
- Transport/corporate: Intended to serve corporate, small passenger and cargo jet aircraft used in regional service, and small airplanes (piston or turboprop) used in commuter air service
- General utility: Intended to serve virtually all small aviation single and twin-engine aircraft (both piston and turboprop) with a maximum take-off weight of 12,500 pounds or less
- Basic utility: Intended to serve all small-engine piston aircraft and many of the smaller twin-engine piston aircraft with a gross takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or less

Truck volume descriptions

- Low (0 – 501 trucks per day), Medium (501 – 2,500 trucks per day),
- High (2,501 – 8,000 trucks per day), Very High (more than 8,000 trucks per day)

Urban/urbanized areas

- Urban areas: Areas with populations between 5,000 and 49,999
- Urbanized areas: Areas with populations of 50,000 or more

Data Sources

Annual average daily traffic (AADT)

- Current data: WisDOT, *2005 Wisconsin Highway Traffic Volume Data*, December 2006
- Forecast data: WisDOT, August 2007

Enplanements

- Current data: WisDOT, *2006 Wisconsin Aviation Activity*, April 2007
- Forecast data: Flight Transportation Associates, Inc., *Updated Wisconsin State Airport System Plan Aviation Activity Forecasts*, September 2005; Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, *Review and Update of Regional Airport System Plan Forecasts*, 2005

National Highway System (NHS) intermodal terminals

- Federal Highway Administration, October 2007

Passenger rail ridership

- Current data: WisDOT, 2007
- Forecast data:
 - › Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc., *Midwest Regional Rail Initiative Project Notebook*, 2004
 - › Forecast year 2020
 - › Forecast Milwaukee station data includes all Milwaukee area stations (Milwaukee Intermodal Station, General Mitchell International Airport and Granville)

Population

- Current population: Wisconsin Department of Administration, *January 1, 2007 Preliminary Population Estimates for Wisconsin Counties*, August 10, 2007
- 2030 Population: Wisconsin Department of Administration, *Final Population Projections for Wisconsin Counties by Age and Sex: 2000 – 2030*, January 2004
- Current Age 65 and older population: 2000 US Census, Summary File 1, Variable P12: Sex by Age
- 2030 Age 65 and older population: Wisconsin Department of Administration, *Final Population Projections for Wisconsin Counties by Age and Sex: 2000 – 2030*, January 2004

Public and specialized transit

- WisDOT, January 2008

Truck volume

- WisDOT, August 2007

Wisconsin Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- Chippewa – Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation Plan 2005 – 2030*, October 2005
- Dubuque Metro Area Transportation Study, *2031 Long-Range Transportation Plan*
- Duluth – Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council, *Access and Mobility for People and Freight 2030*, September 2005

- Fond du Lac Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fond du Lac Urbanized Area*, October 2005
- Fox Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fox Cities Urbanized Area*, October 2005
- Green Bay Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation Plan*, November 2005
- Janesville Metropolitan Planning Organization, *2005 – 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan*, December 2005
- La Crosse Area Planning Committee, *2030 La Crosse and La Crescent Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan*, August 2005
- Madison Area Transportation Planning Board, *Regional Transportation Plan 2030*, November 2005
- Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Long Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Oshkosh Urbanized Area*, October 2005
- Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Organization, *Year 2035 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan*, January 2006
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, *Planning Report 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin 2035*, March 2006
- Stateline Area Transportation Study, *2006 – 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan*, December 2005
- Wausau Metropolitan Planning Commission, *Wausau Area Metropolitan Area Long-Range Transportation Plan – 2035*, December 2005

Wisconsin Tribal Transportation Plans

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, *Long Range Tribal Transportation Plan*, July 2006
- Forest County Potawatomi Community, *Long Range Transportation Plan*, March 2008
- Ho-Chunk Nation, *Ho-Chunk Nation Long Range Transportation Plan*, June 2005, amended March 2007
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, *2006 Transportation Plan*, March 2006
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, *Long-Range Transportation Plan*, February 2007
- Menominee Nation, *Menominee Indian Reservation Long-Range Transportation Plan*, May 2007
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, *Transportation Improvement Plan*, December 2003, amended March 2007
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Red Cliff Reservation*, February 2006
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, *St. Croix Tribal Council 2007 Long Range Transportation Plan*, March 2007
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community, *Long Range Transportation Plan*, March 2007
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, *2006 Tribal Long-Range Transportation Plan Update*, May 2007

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