

Wisconsin River Corridor Part 2 – Wausau to Ironwood, MI

Corridor Overview

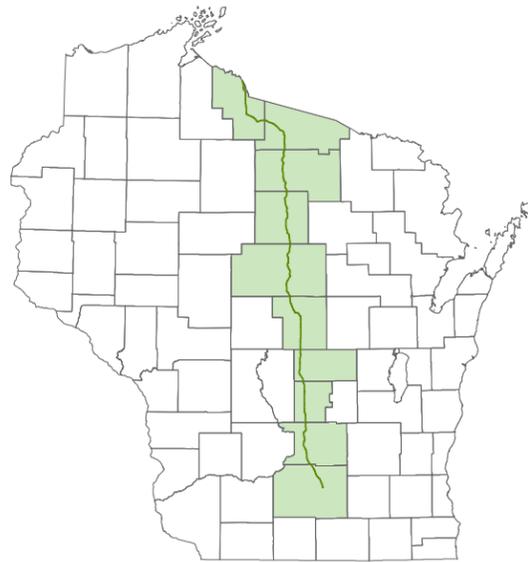
This 260-mile corridor is part of a major passenger and freight corridor that links north central Wisconsin and south central Wisconsin and Illinois. It is a critical tourist corridor between the population centers in Illinois and southern Wisconsin and the major recreation areas in the north. It also provides critical economic links for the industrial and commercial communities of Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point and Marshfield. The corridor includes the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway (US 51 from the Illinois/Wisconsin state line to the Michigan/Wisconsin state line). It also includes the urban and urbanized areas of Wausau, Merrill and Hurley and provides access to the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation.

Current Corridor Characteristics

- Airports:
 - › Air carrier (passenger) airport: Central Wisconsin (Mosinee)
 - › Transport/corporate airport: Lakeland (Minocqua)
 - › General utility airport: Merrill Municipal
- Highways:
 - › Primary highway: US 51
 - › Corridors 2030 Backbone Route: US 51 (WIS 29 to US 8)
 - › Corridors 2030 Connector Route: US 51 (US 8 to Michigan State Line)
 - › Completed passing lane corridors:
 - US 51 (County Rd N (Oneida Co) to County Rd D (Oneida Co))
- Public Transit:
 - › Bus systems: Merrill, Wausau
 - › Shared-ride taxi: None along this corridor
 - › 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: Connections in Wausau to intercity bus services in Milwaukee
- Ports and Harbors: None along this corridor
- Ferry: None along this corridor
- Bicycle/Pedestrian:
 - › Major trails: Mountain Bay State Trail, Ice Age Trail (ped only), North Country Trail (pedestrian only), Bearskin-Hiawatha 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 US 51 by implementing:
 - › State Access Management Plan vision
 - ~ Tier 1; US 51 [Wausau to County Rd K (Oneida Co)]
 - ~ Tier 2A; US 51 [County Rd K (Oneida Co) to County Rd D (Oneida Co)]
 - ~ Tier 2B; US 51 [County Rd D (Oneida Co) to Michigan State Line]
 - › Candidate passing lane corridor (US 51)
 - › Candidate expressway upgrades of corridor and the potential conversion of expressway to freeway corridor (Portions of US 51)
- Public Transit: Increased regional coordination and continued service
- Fixed Guideway Transit: None along this corridor
- Rail Freight: Continued freight rail service and corridor preservation
- Intercity Passenger Rail: None along this corridor
- Intercity Bus:
 - › Continued existing services
 - › New service:
 - Phase 1: Between Madison and Wausau and between Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN and Green Bay, with a stop in Wausau
 - Phase 2: Between Wausau and proposed Appleton passenger rail station
 - Phase 3: Between La Crosse and Wausau and between Hurley/Ironwood, MI and Wausau, with stops in Minocqua, Rhinelander, Tomahawk and Mosinee
- Ports and Harbors: None along this corridor
- Ferry: None along this corridor
- Bicycle/Pedestrian: Continued and enhanced accommodations, linkages and accessibility along and across facilities

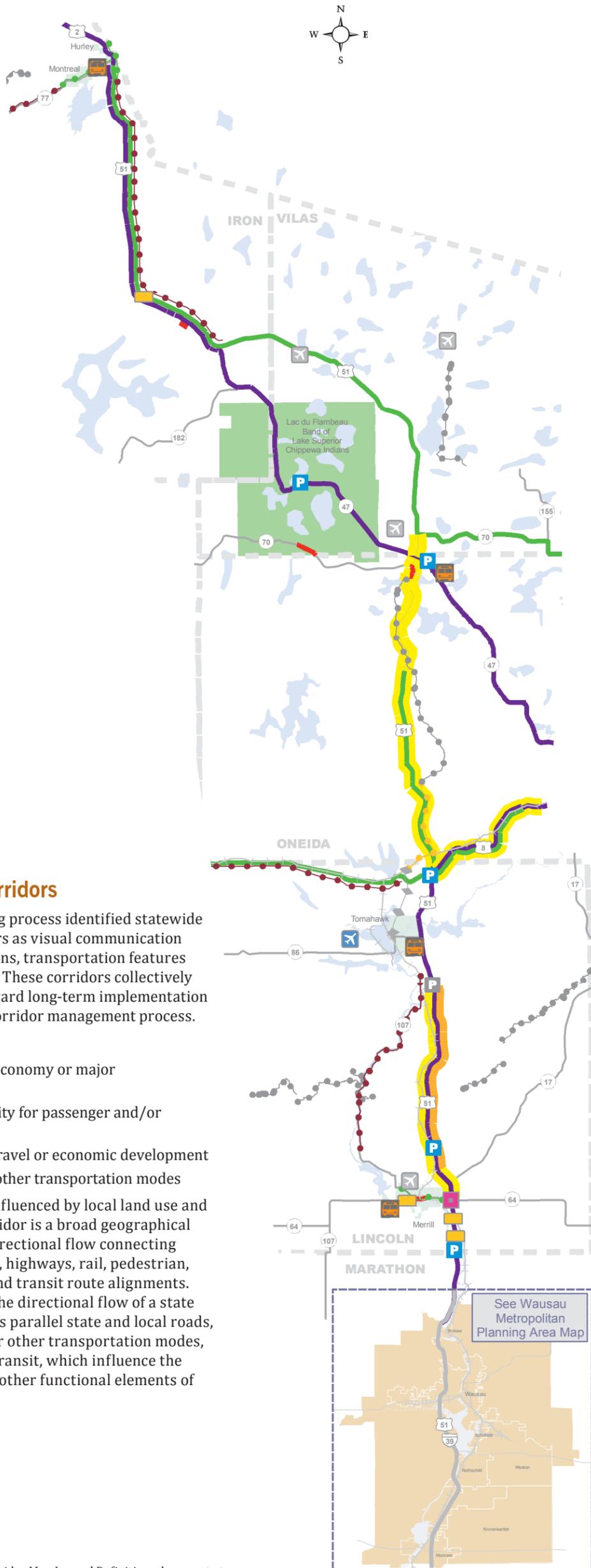


	Year 2007	Year 2030
County populations		
Dane	468,514	579,976
Columbia	55,636	63,177
Marquette	15,319	16,715
Waushara	25,215	28,263
Portage	69,959	81,177
Marathon	134,028	150,225
Lincoln	30,562	31,775
Oneida	38,600	39,673
Vilas	22,545	22,137
Iron	7,002	6,554
Population age 65 and older	96,558	209,779
Enplanements		
Central Wisconsin Airport	161,697	266,100
Average annual daily traffic along US 51	2,500 – 20,900	2,500 – 29,000
Truck volume along		
US 51 south of US 8	Low	Medium
US 51 north of US 8	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

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.

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



Wisconsin River Corridor Part 2 – Wausau to Ironwood, MI

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)

US 8	Prepare corridor plan from US 51 to North Rifle Rd
US 51	Reconstruct from Beachway (Mercer) to County Rd J (Oneida Co), and from Front St to WIS 70 in Minocqua
US 51	Prepare corridor plan from US 8 to County Rd D (Oneida Co)
WIS 64	Reconstruct from WIS 107 to Center Ave (Merrill)
WIS 70	Reconstruct from Silver Beach Dr (Town of Lac du Flambeau) to Oneida/Vilas county line
Airports	Support runway extension at the Tomahawk Regional Airport
Park & Ride	Support proposed park and ride construction near the intersection of US 51 and US 8

Mid-Term (2014 – 2019)

US 51	Prepare corridor plan from County Rd K (Lincoln Co) to County Rd S (Lincoln Co), and from Country Rd D (Oneida Co) to WIS 70 east
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide rural accommodations along WIS 107 from County Rd S (Lincoln Co) to Matthews Rd (Lincoln Co), and urban accommodations along WIS 107 from Marc Dr (Merrill) to WIS 64 (Merrill)
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide rural accommodations along US 8 from County Rd D (Price Co) to the Bearskin State Trail
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide urban and rural accommodations along US 51 from US 2 (Hurley) to WIS 47 (Manitowish)
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide urban accommodations along WIS 64 from WIS 107 (Merrill) to WIS 17 (Lincoln Co)
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Provide urban and rural accommodations along WIS 77 from WIS 13 (Mellen) to US 2 (Hurley)

Long-Term (2020 – 2030)

US 51	Replace bridge over Wisconsin River (north of Lincoln/Marathon county lines) if supported by environmental document
US 51	Replace bridge over railroad south of Merrill if supported by environmental document
US 51	Replace bridge over Weber Creek if supported by environmental document
US 51	Reconstruct existing interchange with safety and operational improvements at WIS 64 and US 51 if supported by environmental document
US 51	Convert to freeway from County Rd K (Lincoln Co) to County Rd S (Lincoln Co) if supported by environmental document
WIS 64	Replace bridge over the Wisconsin River if supported by environmental document
Bicycle/Pedestrian	Support connection of the Bearskin State Trail to the Hiawatha State Trail north of Tomahawk
Intercity Bus	Support new intercity bus service between Wausau and Hurley with stops in Merrill, Tomahawk, Rhinelander, and Minocqua
Park & Ride	Support proposed park and ride construction near the intersection of US 51 and County Rd Q (Lincoln Co), US 51 and County Rd C (Lincoln Co), WIS 47 and County Rd D (Vilas Co); and WIS 47 and County Rd J (Oneida Co) if supported by environmental document

Entire Planning Period

US 8	Construct candidate passing lanes from Everett Ave (Ladysmith) to WIS 32 (Crandon) if supported by environmental document
US 51	Construct candidate passing lanes from WIS 70 (Woodruff) to Taconite St (Hurley) if supported by environmental document
US 51	Construct candidate passing lanes from US 8 to County Road Y (Oneida Co) if supported by environmental document
WIS 70	Construct candidate passing lanes from US 51 (Woodruff) to WIS 17 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	Work with local governments to provide service between Superior and Ironwood, MI with stops in Ashland, Brule, and Iron River
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 regional service expansion in Merrill
Public Transit	Support continued service and vehicle replacement for Merrill transit
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
Soo Locks	Support continued coordination, maintenance and preservation
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

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 table and map activities (on the previous 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.



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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