

**Major Amendment #1
to the
2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program
for the
Green Bay Urbanized Area**



**Brown County Planning Commission/
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Green Bay Urbanized Area
February 3, 2016**



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**



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RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
BROWN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING
MAJOR AMENDMENT #1 TO THE 2016-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FOR THE GREEN BAY URBANIZED AREA**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations require the development and annual endorsement of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for each urbanized area by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and

WHEREAS, In accordance with 23 CFR 450.334(a) the Brown County Planning Commission (BCPC) hereby certifies that the metropolitan transportation planning process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

1. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
3. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
4. Sections 1101(b) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) (P.L. 112-141) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in the US DOT funded projects;
5. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
6. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
7. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
8. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
9. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the BCPC is the designated MPO for the Green Bay Urbanized Area with responsibility for carrying out an urban transportation planning program; and

WHEREAS, the BCPC Board of Directors is the Green Bay MPO's policy board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BCPC Board of Directors approves Amendment #1 to the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for the Green Bay Urbanized Area.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MPO planning process is compliant with the requirements of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and that the BCPC certifies that the urban transportation planning process certification requirements of 23 CFR 450.114 (c) are satisfied.

Dated at Green Bay, Wisconsin, this 3rd day of February 2016.

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION


Norbert Dantine, Jr., President

ATTEST:


Chuck Lamine, AICP, Planning Director

Amendment Request

In January 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) requested that the Brown County Planning Commission Board of Directors/Green Bay MPO amend the *2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Green Bay Urbanized Area* to reflect federal funding from the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) assigned to a project located within the Green Bay MPO boundary. Previous to the award, WisDOT was proceeding with the project exclusively with state funds.

Project Detail

The project includes an upgrade to the control systems on the Nitschke Bridge as well as installation of equipment to allow for remote operations of the Tilleman and Nitschke Bridges from a single tender station located on the Walnut Street Bridge. WisDOT is seeking federal funds to offset the cost of the project to the state, necessitating the need to amend the TIP.

The funding arrangement for the project is summarized below:

Project (\$1,000s)

| Primary Jurisdiction Project Sponsor | Project Description | Type of Cost | Jan - Dec 2016 | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | Federal | State | Local | Total |
| | | | | | | |
| WisDOT 158-16-019 (2016) | Upgrade of control systems on the Nitschke Bridge; installation of equipment for remote operations of the Tilleman & Nitschke Bridges from Walnut Street Bridge 4987-07-71, 72 0.00 miles P | DESIGN | | | | 0 |
| | | RE | | | | 0 |
| | | EQUIP | 674 | 169 | 0 | 843 |
| | | | 674 | 169 | 0 | 843 |
| | | NHPP | | | | |

A full copy of the TIP and subsequent amendments and/or administrative modifications can be found on the Brown County Planning Commission website at <http://www.co.brown.wi.us/>. Click on Departments, Planning, Transportation, and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Green Bay Urbanized Area.

Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

MPO staff conducted a 15-day public comment period on the proposed amendment, and a public hearing was held on February 3, 2016. The public participation documents can be seen in the appendices of this amendment report.

Comments Received:

Pat Finder-Stone, Brown County Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC)

I have read the proposal regarding the TIP amendment document and I do support it. Although it will be costly, I do think it will address the safety of our residents and will be efficacious in the long run. Thank you.

Dean Haen, Director, Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

Please accept this email as a comment regarding Amendment 1 "remote operation of bridges in the Port of Green Bay" as part of the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. Commercial transportation is solely regulated by the United States Coast Guard. I am unaware of any commercial port operating with remote bridge controls. Commercial vessels need at least a mile to stop forward momentum. Remote operation needs to be foolproof with back-up manual human operating capabilities to reduce the risk of a collision. Brown County Port and Resource Recovery comment is the recognition that the U.S. Coast Guard reserves the authority to approve or disapprove remote operation of bridges and Brown County will support the position and authority of the United States Coast Guard.

Scot Striffler, Bridge Program Manager, US Coast Guard (two comments submitted)

1. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft major amendment for the 2016-20 TIP in the area of this project.

The Coast Guard determines whether a drawbridge may be allowed to operate from a remote location with remote equipment. The installation of this equipment is a determination by the bridge owner. The Coast Guard has been asked to approve remote operation of these three drawbridges in Green Bay and has declined granting that authorization.

2. Good afternoon. We're following up on our phone conversation today regarding our comments below (above) for the Brown County Planning Commission Board of Directors. As I mentioned, we denied authorization to operate the three drawbridges with remote equipment based on safety concerns on waterways where large commercial vessel traffic routinely transits. In addition, large increases in recreational vessel traffic during peak boating season contribute to safety concerns, as well as pedestrian traffic on the City of Green bay drawbridges. Before making our determination we requested comments from Lake carriers Association, the entity that represents U.S. shipping companies on the Great lakes, and they also stated their safety concerns with remotely operated drawbridges using untested equipment. The Coast Guard is currently evaluating its nationwide policy on remotely operated drawbridges and existing technology to support remote operations.

Also, as I mentioned, we have received similar requests to authorize remote operations on drawbridges from other Great Lakes state DOT's and have also denied those requests based on the same issues and concerns, but at least one other state DOT has decided to install equipment for potential future approval despite our current denial.

Please feel free to contact me at the number below if there are additional questions or you wish to discuss further. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scot Striffler
Bridge Program Manager
Ninth Coast Guard District
(216) 902-6087
Fax: (216) 902-6088
Scot.M.Striffler@uscg.mil

Steve Grenier, Director, City of Green Bay Public Works

The City of Green Bay supports the project.

Andrew Fulcer, Project Manager, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

WisDOT has coordinated with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) regarding the installation of remote operations equipment on the three lift bridges in the city of Green Bay. The purpose of this project will be to install the equipment to provide for the capability of remote operations in the future. WisDOT understands that the USCG currently does not support the remote operation of those structures. The USCG is not opposed to the proposed installation of the equipment to provide for the capability of remote operations in the future. Any future decision to remotely operate the bridges would involve further coordination with the USCG. The project also includes software upgrades to the programmable logic controllers (PLC), the closed circuit television (CCTV) monitors and cameras, and the public address system on the bridges.

John Trester, 2030 Jourdain Lane, Green Bay

I think that putting automatic tending controls on the bridges is bad. I do not think that it would be safe, no one can see details that far away, around a corner, or on the other side of the bridge.

Also, most of the tenders I know are old Veterans. I think it would be a dis-service to our veterans to deprive them of gainful employment, and we would lose more money putting the fancy new stuff in than letting the guys run the bridges safely.

BCPC Board of Directors Action

The Brown County Planning Commission Board of Directors approved the amendment on February 3rd, 2016.

Appendix A

Minutes
BROWN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue, Commission Room
Green Bay, WI 54302
6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Paul Blindauer | X | Mark Handeland | X | Terry Schaeuble | Exc |
| James Botz | X | Matthew Harris | X | Debbie Schumacher | X |
| Brian Brock | X | Frederick Heitl | X | Ray Tauscher | Exc |
| William Clancy | X | Phil Hilgenberg | X | Lanny Tibaldo | Exc |
| Norbert Dantinne, Jr. | X | Kathleen Janssen | X | Jason Ward | X |
| Bernie Erickson | X | Dotty Juengst | Exc | Dave Wiese | Exc |
| Kim Flom | X | Patty Kiewiz | X | Reed Woodward | X |
| Steve Gander | X | Michael Malcheski | X | City of Green Bay (Vacant) | |
| Adam Gauthier | X | Burt McIntyre (Alternate) | X | City of Green Bay (Vacant) | |
| Steve Grenier | X | Dan Robinson | X | | |

OTHERS PRESENT: Chuck Lamine, Cole Runge, Lisa Conard, Kathy Meyer, Will Agen, Dean Haen and media.

2. **Public Hearing:** Major Amendment #1 to the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for the Green Bay Urbanized Area.

L. Conard stated that at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, MPO staff has prepared and submitted the amendment document to the BCPC for approval consideration.

The Amendment includes adding one project to the TIP.

The project includes an upgrade to the control systems on the Nitschke Bridge as well as the installation of equipment on the Nitschke, Walnut, and Tilleman Bridges to allow for remote operations from a single tender station located on the Walnut Street Bridge.

WisDOT is seeking federal funds to offset the cost of the project to the state, necessitating the need to amend the TIP.

The proposed funding arrangement for the project includes (in 1,000s):

| Primary Jurisdiction | Project Description | Type of Cost | Jan - Dec 2016 | | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | Federal | State | Local | Total |
| WisDOT | Upgrade of Control Systems for the Tilleman Nitschke, & Walnut Bridges as well as the installation of equipment to allow for remote operation from a single bridge | DESIGN | | | | 0 |
| | | RE | | | | 0 |
| | | EQUIP | 674 | 169 | 0 | 843 |
| | | | 674 | 169 | 0 | 843 |
| 158-xx-xxx (2016) | 0.00 miles P | | NHPP | | | |

* A MPO TIP number will be assigned to the project upon approval of the BCPC Board of Directors.

The comments received at tonight's hearing will be summarized and presented to the BCPC Board of Directors later tonight under agenda item #3.

Written comments received to date have been forwarded to the BCPC Board of Directors.

L. Conard opened the public hearing.

Please state your name and address prior to making any comment.

L. Conard asked if there was anyone who would like to speak.

Good evening, I'm Dean Haen, Port Director for the Port of Green Bay, and on behalf of the port and the fourteen terminal operators I wanted to take this opportunity to come before the planning commission and discuss we're not in favor or against remote bridge operations, in fact we actually applaud the DOT for looking at ways to figure out how to do things more cost effectively using advanced technology. With that being said, also last year, I participated in the DOT's public meetings and sat through those and last summer the DOT applied to the Coast Guard for approval to operate the bridges remotely and was denied. The main point is, from the Coast Guard, it needs to be foolproof, needs to be reliable, needs to have back-up systems, which I know the DOT is preparing and planning to have back-up systems, but also there isn't a commercial port that runs with remote operated bridges. These vessels take more than a mile to stop if something should fail from the Walnut Street bridge you need to ensure that you can get a human body over to the Main Street to open it or downstream at the Mason Street. It's a significant change and I guess it's our position that until it's proven to be safe and reliable that we not be applying for federal funds and putting the planning commission in a position where you're basically advocating for something that's unproven at this time. Allow the DOT to keep working with the Coast Guard and try to figure out how to get it, maybe if the funds get approved they can do a pilot, but I don't think it should be the position of the planning commission to be endorsing something that is yet to be proven. That's my comments.

L. Conard asked three times if anyone else wished to speak. Hearing no comment, L. Conard closed the public hearing.

3. Discussion and action on Major Amendment #1 to the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for the Green Bay Urbanized Area.

Upon receipt of the amendment request, MPO staff:

- Developed the amendment document;
- Issued a 15-day public review and comment period;
- Sent notices to over 160 individuals;
- Posted the amendment on social media, and
- Scheduled a public hearing for tonight.

Comments received during the 15-day review and comment period were included in the supplemental document which was provided to the BCPC Board of Directors in advance of tonight's meeting.

L. Conard referenced the testimony provided by Dean Haen earlier in the evening and stated written comments were both for and against the project.

MPO staff is available to address any comments you may have. In addition, key stakeholders are in attendance.

B. Brock provided an overview of the project and request of the funding. Approximately 2/3 of the funding would be to upgrade equipment on the bridges, primarily the Nitschke Bridge, and 1/3 of the amount is to install additional equipment to allow for remote operations.

Discussion occurred on the merits of the project.

A motion was made by M. Malcheski and seconded by S. Grenier to approve Major Amendment #1 to the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for the Green Bay Urbanized Area. A. Gauthier called for roll call vote.

Further discussion occurred regarding the project and clarification of the role of the planning commission.

Roll call vote occurred. Ayes = 19, Nays = 3 to approve federal funding. Motion carried.

Appendix B

Email Message Sent to Interested Parties

Dear Interested Party:

You are invited to comment and are advised of a public hearing on ***Draft Major Amendment #1 to the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Green Bay Urbanized Area.***

A digital version of the draft TIP amendment document can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.public.applications.co.brown.wi.us/Plan/PlanningFolder/Transpotation/TIP/Amendment%201%20-%20Major%20Amendment%20Document%202016-2020.pdf>

If you would like to review a hard copy of the draft TIP amendment document, copies are available for review at:

Brown County Planning Commission
Planning and Land Services Department
305 East Walnut Street, Room 320
Green Bay, WI 54301

The public review and comment period for the draft TIP amendment will occur between January 20, 2016, and February 3, 2016.

Amendment –

The project includes the installation of equipment on the Tilleman and Nitschke Bridges to allow for remote operations from a single bridge tender station located on the Walnut Street Bridge.

The proposed funding arrangement for the project is summarized below:

Project is shown in \$1,000s.

| Primary Jurisdiction Project Sponsor | Project Description | Type of Cost | Jan - Dec 2016 | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | Federal | State | Local | Total |
| | | | | | | |
| WisDOT | Installation of Equipment to allow for Remote Operations of the STH 54 - Tilleman Bridge & STH 29 - Nitschke Bridge 4987-07-71, 72 | DESIGN | | | | 0 |
| | | RE | | | | 0 |
| | | EQUIP | 674 | 169 | 0 | 843 |
| | | | 674 | 169 | 0 | 843 |
| 158-xx-xxx (2016) | 0.00 miles P | | NHPP | | | |

Appendix B (continued)

If you would like to submit comments, please mail or email your comments by February 3, 2016, to:

Lisa J. Conard, Senior Planner
Brown County Planning Commission
Planning and Land Services Department
305 East Walnut Street, Room 320
PO Box 23600
Green Bay, WI 54305-3600
conard_lj@co.brown.wi.us

You can also submit comments by telephone or through the Brown County Planning Commission/Green Bay MPO Facebook Page. The telephone number and Facebook link are shown at the end of this message.

A public hearing regarding the draft TIP amendment will take place on:

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54302

Immediately following the hearing, the draft TIP amendment will be presented to the Brown County Planning Commission Board of Directors (MPO Policy Board) for approval consideration.

Thank you for your interest in the Green Bay MPO.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Conard, Senior Planner
Brown County Planning Commission/Green Bay MPO
305 E. Walnut Street Room 320
PO Box 23600
Green Bay, WI 54305-3600
Phone: (920) 448-6489
Email: Conard_LJ@co.brown.wi.us
Website: www.co.brown.wi.us/planning



Appendix C

MPO Facebook Page

**Brown County Planning Commission / Green Bay MPO**▼

Yesterday at 9:02am · 🌐

The Brown County Planning Commission/Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Green Bay Urbanized Area has released Draft Amendment #1 to the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Green Bay Urbanized Area. Public comments are welcome by February 3, 2016.

A digital version of the amendment can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.public.applications.co.brown.wi.us/.../Amendment%2...>

www.public.applications.co.brown.wi.us

PUBLIC.APPLICATIONS.CO.BROWN.WI.US

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Appendix D

Legal Notice



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BROWN COUNTY PLANNING LEGALS

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GREEN BAY

WI 54301-5027

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2016

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING
AND LAND SERVICES

Being duly sworn, does depose and say that she/he is an authorized representative of the Green Bay Press
Gazette, a newspaper Green Bay, Wisconsin, and that an advertisement of which the enclosed is a true copy.
Taken from said paper, which was published therein, on

Account Number: GWM-384368
Order Number: 0020892582
No. of Advertisements: 1
Total Ad Cost: \$73.29
Published Dates: 01/20/16, 01/27/16

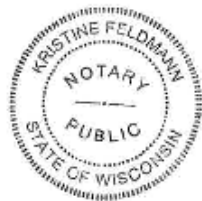
(Signed)

Christi Ambrosius

(Date)

1-27-16

Legal Clerk



Signed and sworn before me

Kristine Feldman

My commission expires

12-7-19

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR
COMMENTS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING ON THE DRAFT MAJOR
AMENDMENT #1 TO THE 2015-2020
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM FOR THE
GREEN BAY LIBRARIAN AREA
A proposed person's proposed a
corridor, and a portion of a public
hearing on the Draft Major Amendment
#1 to the 2015-2020 Transportation Im-
provement Program (TIP) for the Green
Bay Union and Area.
Copies of the amendment will be
available at:
Brown County Planning Committee
Room 302, Northern Building,
305 E Walnut St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
The public hearing will take place on:
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Green Bay Public - Transportation
Center
821 Lombardi Ave
Green Bay, Wisconsin
6:30 pm
Unless otherwise notified, the complete
final project, if projects
The public hearing and comment period
for the amendment is scheduled for
January 20th through February 3, 2016.
Written comments should be mailed to:
Lisa A. Corrao, Brown County Planning
Commission, P.O. Box 7000, Green Bay,
WI 54303-0000 by February 3, 2016.
Thank you
Kristine Feldman
County Clerk

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING LEGALS
Re: Current Public Hearing

GANNETT WISCONSIN
415 EAST WALNUT ST.
PO BOX 25490
GREEN BAY, WI 54305-1430

GANNETT
Wisconsin Media
For more information, visit www.press-gazette.com

PHONE: 920-831-3000
FAX: 920-831-0440
EMAIL: legals@gannettwisconsin.com

Appendix E

Green Bay Press Gazette Article
Published on June 15, 2015

Green Bay bridges could be operated remotely

Shelby Le Duc, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 9:28 p.m. CDT June 15, 2015



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will host a public meeting next week to discuss developing plans for the remote operation of some lift bridges over the Fox River in Green Bay.

The plan requires updates to the Don A. Tilleman, Walnut Street and Ray Nitschke bridges. When the upgrades are completed, the Tilleman and Nitschke bridges could be operated remotely from the Walnut Street Bridge.

That decision ultimately depends on the DOT reaching an agreement with the city of Green Bay and the U.S. Coast Guard, Project Manager Andy Fulcer said.

The DOT plan to update the bridges in fall 2016 includes new electrical and software systems within the three bridge-tender's houses and installing a closed-circuit television system.

Fulcer said a new wireless connection will make remote operations a possibility.

The bridge modifications are nonstructural and are intended to improve safety, maintain service and reduce overall operational and maintenance costs, according to the DOT.

The informational meeting is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. June 22 at the DOT regional office at 944 Vanderperren Way in Green Bay.

— sleduc@greenbay.gannett.com 'Like' Shelby Le Duc on Facebook and follow her on Twitter @pgshelbyleduc and on Instagram @shelbyleduc22