

## The Madison Beltline Study

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is studying the Beltline from US 14 in Middleton to County N in Cottage Grove. The Beltline is being studied to look at ways to improve conditions. This study is called a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) corridor study.

WisDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have been working with the public, local officials, businesses, residents, targeted organizations that serve minority populations and low-income populations, and state and federal agencies to get feedback on how to make the Beltline better. The feedback WisDOT has received will be used to look at different ways to make people's drive on the Beltline better.



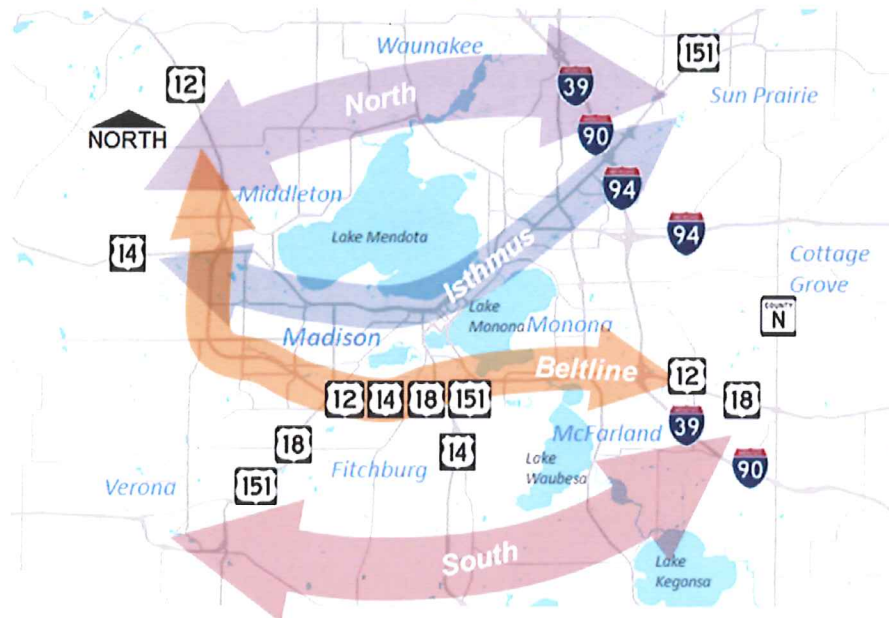
How can WisDOT make a **Better** Beltline? Below are a few ways:

- Make the Beltline safer
- Replace aging and cracked pavement
- Reduce delays for cars and trucks
- Make crossings easier for bicyclists and pedestrians

Alternate roadway corridors and bus/transit strategies are being looked at to see if improvements off the Beltline could reduce traffic on the Beltline. The general locations of routes being considered are shown in the figure below.

### Madison Beltline Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study Corridor

*Many strategies, corridors, and travel modes will be investigated.*



## Beltline information

- The Beltline is important for the economy. In 2011, \$14 billion of freight traveled on the Beltline, much of it to destinations outside of Wisconsin.
- Many people use the Beltline to get to jobs. In 2012, almost 100,000 employees worked within 1 mile of the Beltline.
- More people use the Beltline than any other roadway in Dane County to travel to jobs, school, shopping, and businesses.

The Beltline carries much more traffic than it was designed to safely and efficiently handle. The Beltline can be difficult for bicycles and pedestrians to cross. The Beltline has unreliable travel time due to congestion, affecting Madison Metro Routes that travel on or across it.

## Summary of project objectives

The study will look at different ideas to improve conditions on and near the Beltline. Improvements or objectives include:

1. Improve safety for cars, trucks, buses, bikes, and walkers.
2. Address aging Beltline pavements and bridges.
3. Address Beltline congestion/accessibility for:
  - a. Pedestrians (walkers)
  - b. Bicycle
  - c. Transit
  - d. Local and regional passenger vehicles (cars)
  - e. Freight
4. Limit negative impacts to neighborhoods, businesses, and the environment.
5. Improve Beltline time reliability for all trips.
6. Improve Beltline crossings, nearby roads, and connections for cars, trucks, buses, bikes, and walkers.
7. Improve access to jobs, businesses, and economic centers in the Madison area.
8. Limit cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets from Beltline traffic.
9. Improve transit routing opportunities.
10. Improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities and routes.
11. Complement major transportation projects and studies in the Madison area.
12. Encourage alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle (cars) travel.

## Study schedule

The PEL study started in 2013 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015. Public meetings, a project website, and social media will keep the public informed during every stage of the study.

## Beltline study contact information

### Larry Barta

WisDOT Project Manager Southwest Region  
2101 Wright Street Madison, WI 53704  
Phone: (608) 246-3884  
[larry.barta@dot.wi.gov](mailto:larry.barta@dot.wi.gov)

### Steve Theisen

WisDOT Communications Manager  
2101 Wright Street Madison, WI 53704  
Phone: (608) 884-1230  
[steven.theisen@dot.wi.gov](mailto:steven.theisen@dot.wi.gov)

**Website:** <http://madisonbeltline.dot.wi.gov>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/WIMadisonBeltlineStudy](http://www.facebook.com/WIMadisonBeltlineStudy)



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

