

Resolution No. 57 - 03/17

Urging Elected Officials to Direct the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to Complete the USH 12 Environmental Impact Study

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Public Works Committee

2
3 **WHEREAS**, a four lane US Highway 12 between Whitewater and Elkhorn and bypassing around
4 the Lauderdale Lakes area, known as the Red Line Route, was proposed and mapped in 1967, and
5 included in the 2035 Jurisdictional Highway System Plan for Walworth County (hereinafter called
6 “the Project”);

7
8 **WHEREAS**, despite a dramatic increase in the population of Walworth County since the 1960s and
9 the number of vehicles traveling on US Highway 12, the Project was never constructed; and,

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the absence of a four lane connection to the City of Whitewater negatively impacts
12 the economy and quality of life in Walworth County (“County”); and;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is the only four-year state university not
15 served by a four lane highway; and,

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the City of Whitewater’s business/technology park has been designated as a site that
18 is “shovel-ready” for development; however, the most important feature of attracting businesses is
19 transportation accessibility; and,

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the City of Whitewater has made a substantial investment in its infrastructure to
22 attract manufacturing and technology businesses, but that effort is hampered by an inadequate state
23 highway system; and,

24
25 **WHEREAS**, as part of the 2013-2015 biennial budget, the State Legislature directed the Wisconsin
26 Department of Transportation (“WisDOT”) to “commence the preparation of an environmental
27 impact statement, as defined in s. 13.489(1c)(b), for a proposed major highway project involving
28 US 12 from the city of Elkhorn to the city of Whitewater;” and,

29
30 **WHEREAS**, in July of 2016, WisDOT decided to suspend the study citing a variety of reasons
31 including a lack of overall need, financial constraints and overall WisDOT system needs; and,

32
33 **WHEREAS**, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors (“County Board”) disagrees with the
34 WisDOT’s conclusion that there is a lack of need for the Project and with WisDOT’s conclusion
35 that its effort satisfied the statutory mandate of commencing the preparation of an environmental
36 impact statement; and,

37
38 **WHEREAS**, had WisDOT invested more effort into this matter, the need for the Project would
39 have been readily apparent; such effort should have included:

- 40
41
- Obtaining accurate and recent traffic counts.

- 1 • Following through with WisDOT's commitment to meet with area businesses, County
2 government and the 1300 members of the Highway 12 Red Line Group;
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has
5 concluded that the Project is warranted and has included the Project in its Vision 2050 Plan as well
6 as Walworth County's jurisdictional highway system plan.
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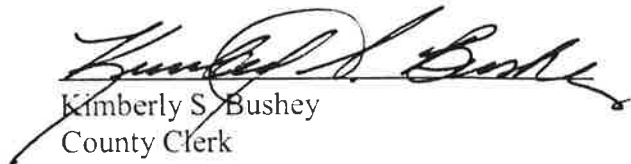
8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors
9 hereby supports the completion of the Environmental Impact Study for the USH 12 Extension
10 Project.
11

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors urges the
13 appropriate elected officials to make the Project a priority and direct WisDOT to make a good faith
14 effort to complete the study as originally directed in the state budget.
15

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this
17 resolution to Governor Scott Walker, Congressman Paul Ryan, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos,
18 Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Senator Minority
19 Leader Jennifer Shilling and Secretary of Transportation Dave Ross as well as assembly members
20 and senators representing Walworth County.
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22 

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25 Nancy Russell
26 County Board Chair

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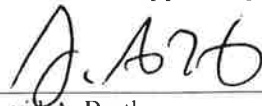
28
29 Kimberly S. Bushey
30 County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: March 14, 2017

Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote Other

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.

Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

 3/1/17
Date
David A. Bretl
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

 3/1/17
Date
Nicole Andersen
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

Resolution/Ordinance was:
Approved: Roll Call/U.C./Voice
Rejected/Referred/Laid Over
Ayes: Noes: Absent:
Date March 14, 2017

Policy and Fiscal Note
Resolution No. 57 - 03/17

- I. **Title:** Urging Elected Officials to Direct the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to Complete the USH 12 Environmental Impact Study
- II. **Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution is to support the completion of the environmental impact study for the USH 12 Extension Project and urging the State of Wisconsin that this project be included in the Transportation Improvement Program for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2017-2020.
- III. **Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this resolution will have no impact on the County budget.
- IV. **Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**

Committee: Public Works Committee Meeting Date: February 20, 2017

Vote: 3-0

County Board Meeting Date: March 14, 2017

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

DA Bretl 3/1/17
Date
David A. Bretl
County Administrator Corporation Counsel

N Andersen 3/1/17
Date
Nicole Andersen
Deputy County Administrator – Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

