



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whitewater takes on Highway 12 again

Whitewater, Wisc. – Jan. 10, 2019 – The Greater Whitewater Committee, Inc. (GWC) hand delivered a letter to the Governor’s office describing the work they have done to convert US Highway 12 (USH12) to a four-lane highway between Elkhorn and Whitewater on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

The GWC took action Thursday morning to work closely with Governor Evers and the legislature to make this happen.

The four-lane USH 12 ends in Elkhorn and changes to a two-lane highway through Whitewater. This creates unsafe congestion of drivers throughout the year, especially during the summer months.

According to a 2016 study by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), the average annual daily traffic volumes exceeds the 14,000 capacity.

The study also found 15 percent of the total number of crashes were fatal or observed injury; this exceeds the state average by 18 percent.

Traffic continues to grow annually, and the danger of two-lane USH 12 grows as well. The only way to alleviate some of this danger is to expand USH 12 to four lanes.

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is the only four-year UW college without a four-lane highway leading to it. Not only would the university benefit from four lanes, but the whole Whitewater community would benefit from a four-lane highway.

“Expansion on the Highway 12 has been in the books since 1967 and a priority of GWC for years,” GWC President/CEO Jeffery Knight said. “There are safety and fatality concerns from the current two-lane highway that shows the need for expansion, and the benefit to Whitewater’s industries would be great with expansion.”

To achieve a four-lane highway and improve the safety of drives, as well as benefit the communities, the GWC held a forum in 2017 at Gateway Technical College in Elkhorn to discuss the need for a four-lane highway.

The forum saw about 170 people along with Representatives Don Vruwink, Cody Horlacher and Amy Loudenberg. Todd Berry, president of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, and Michael Hahn, executive director of SEWRPC spoke about the need for a four-lane highway at the forum.

Also, during this time, the GWC developed a petition to achieve a full USH 12 Environmental Impact Study (EIS), the first steps of a four-lane highway. The petition received 1,199 signatures in support of the EIS.

The GWC has recommitted itself to prioritizing the completion of the EIS for USH 12 between Elkhorn and Whitewater.

For more information on the GWC or its efforts on USH 12 contact Jeffery Knight at 920.728.0662 or at jpk@knightpublicaffairs.com.



About GWC

The Greater Whitewater Committee, Inc. is an action-oriented group committed to working with citizens, elected officials and policy makers to identify, craft and implement a pro-business agenda. The agenda advances the economic, educational and social policies required to energize and secure the Whitewater area's economic future, as well as protect Whitewater's quality of life. By working closely with the City of Whitewater, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater Unified School District and the local community, Whitewater can increase its visibility and become a beacon for business and leisure in the state of Wisconsin. For more information on the GWC visit <http://greaterwhitewatercommittee.com>.

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