



ACEG Transmission Time

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

July 26, 2023

History of Utility Accommodation Interstates and Freeways

1. 1959: American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO) policy
→ No longitudinal occupations on Interstates; crossings allowed
2. 1969: AASHO policy – same as 1959, expanded to include freeways
3. 1989: AASHTO (formerly AASHO) allows longitudinal in special cases ('strictly controlled conditions')
4. 1996 Telecommunications Act signals major changes:
→ Telecoms inquire about using Interstates and freeways for longitudinal fiber installations; state DOTs start allowing it
5. 2003 WisDOT changes its Utility Accommodation Policy (UAP) to allow longitudinal *electric transmission* in Interstates and freeways
6. April 27, 2021, FHWA memorandum, "State DOTs Leveraging Alternative Uses of the Highway Right-of-Way Guidance"



2003 Wisconsin Act 89

- **SECTION 1.** 1.12 (6) of the statutes is created to read:
- **1.12 (6) SITING OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.** In the siting of new electric transmission facilities, including high-voltage transmission lines, as defined in s. 196.491 (1) (f), it is the policy of this state that, to the greatest extent feasible that is consistent with economic and engineering considerations, reliability of the electric system, and protection of the environment, the following corridors should be utilized in the following order of priority:
 - (a) Existing utility corridors.
 - (b) Highway and railroad corridors.
 - (c) Recreational trails, to the extent that the facilities may be constructed below ground and that the facilities do not significantly impact environmentally sensitive areas.
 - (d) New corridors.



The Great River Road

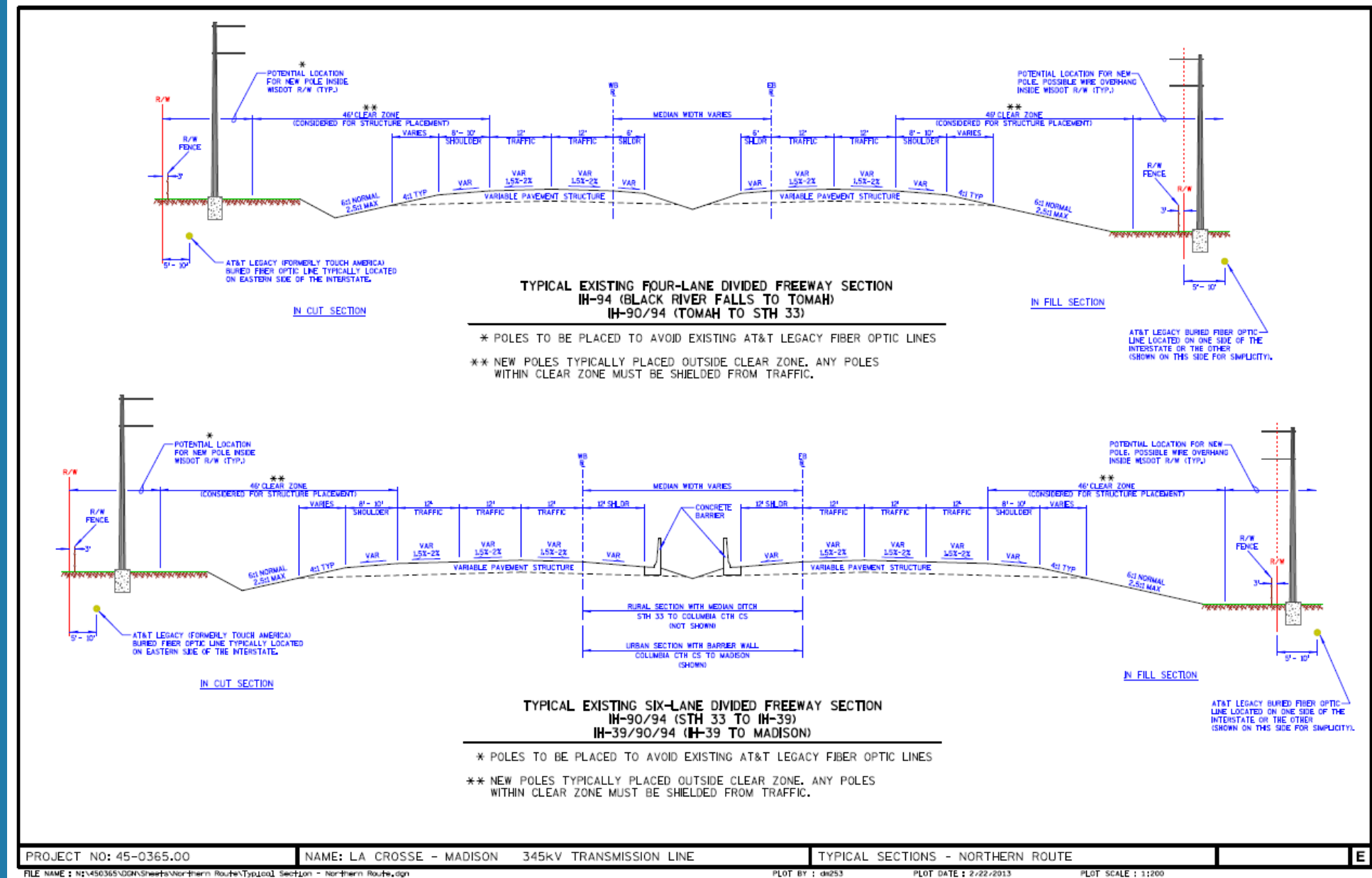
WisDOT's Experience

NEXTGEN
HIGHWAYS



WisDOT Playbook for Collocation

1. Existing Interstate, freeway, and railroad ROW are now priority corridors for new transmission development ([2003 Wisconsin Act 89](#))
2. Updated [WisDOT's Utility Accommodation Policy](#) to facilitate the longitudinal installation of electric transmission in controlled-access highway ROW
3. Establish a [cooperative agreement](#) between WisDOT and the Public Service Commission (PSC)
4. When possible, utilities should utilize engineering firms with WisDOT highway design and construction expertise
5. Utilities should work with WisDOT to produce [Constructability Reports](#)



Constructability Report – Typical Section

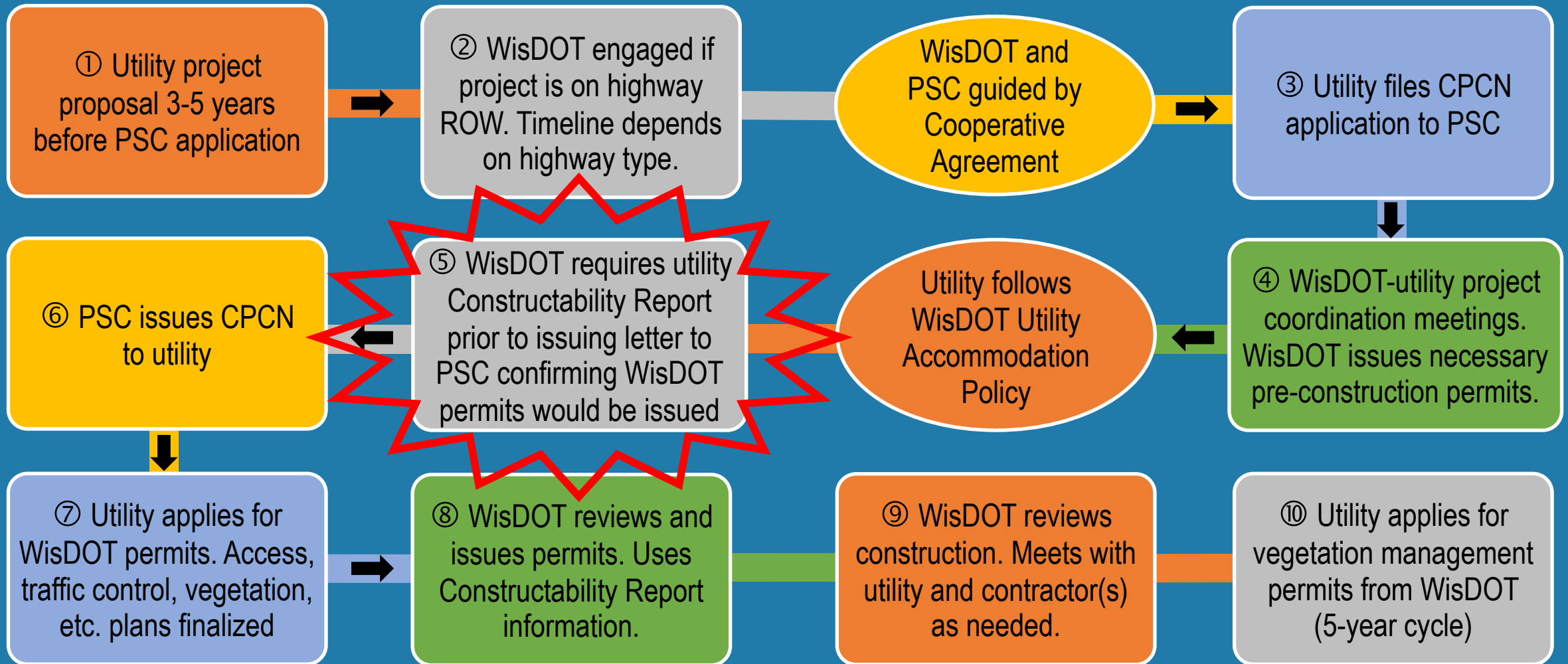


Public Service Commission (PSC) Approval Process & WisDOT Involvement

- Utility applies to PSC for a CPCN; two routes studied
- Utility permit application submitted to WisDOT *after* CPCN is issued
- WisDOT only permits the approved PSC route
- Permit authorizes the utility to construct, own, operate, and maintain utility facilities in WisDOT highway ROW
- Agreements may be used on large projects to summarize provisions germane to all permits

CPCN = Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Transmission Project Process with WisDOT Permits



HVAC Transmission: Badger – Coulee Line Madison to Black River Falls to La Crosse, WI

108 (of 160) miles in
Interstate ROW

8 counties

Permits issued for
vegetation clearing
and installation



⚡ Current WisDOT Electric Transmission Line Policy

- Crossings allowed
 - Region offices issue permits
- Longitudinal allowed
 - Central Office issues permits
 - ROW occupation & vegetation removal fees charged
- CO handles coordination with PSC
 - Region office reviews to determine potential conflicts with upcoming (6-yr plan) and long-range highway projects



USH 12 Madison Beltline, Dane County
ATC, West Middleton to Rockdale

Content and photos from WisDOT

⚡ Current WisDOT Electric Transmission Line Policy

- Placement
 - Near edge of ROW
 - If pole is in clear zone, guardrail must be installed or extended
 - Includes airspace overhang
 - Blowout clearances
 - 75' from bridge abutments
 - Facilitate crane placement and boom swinging for girder replacement



Content and photos from WisDOT

345kV transmission line construction
USH 12 Madison Beltline @ Fish Hatchery Rd
ATC, West Middleton to Rockdale



Construction



USH 12 Madison Beltline, Dane County
ATC, West Middleton to Rockdale



Content and photos from WisDOT

Construction



ATC line stringing over I-94 in Jefferson County



USH 12 Madison Beltline, Dane County
ATC construction access via WisDOT security fence

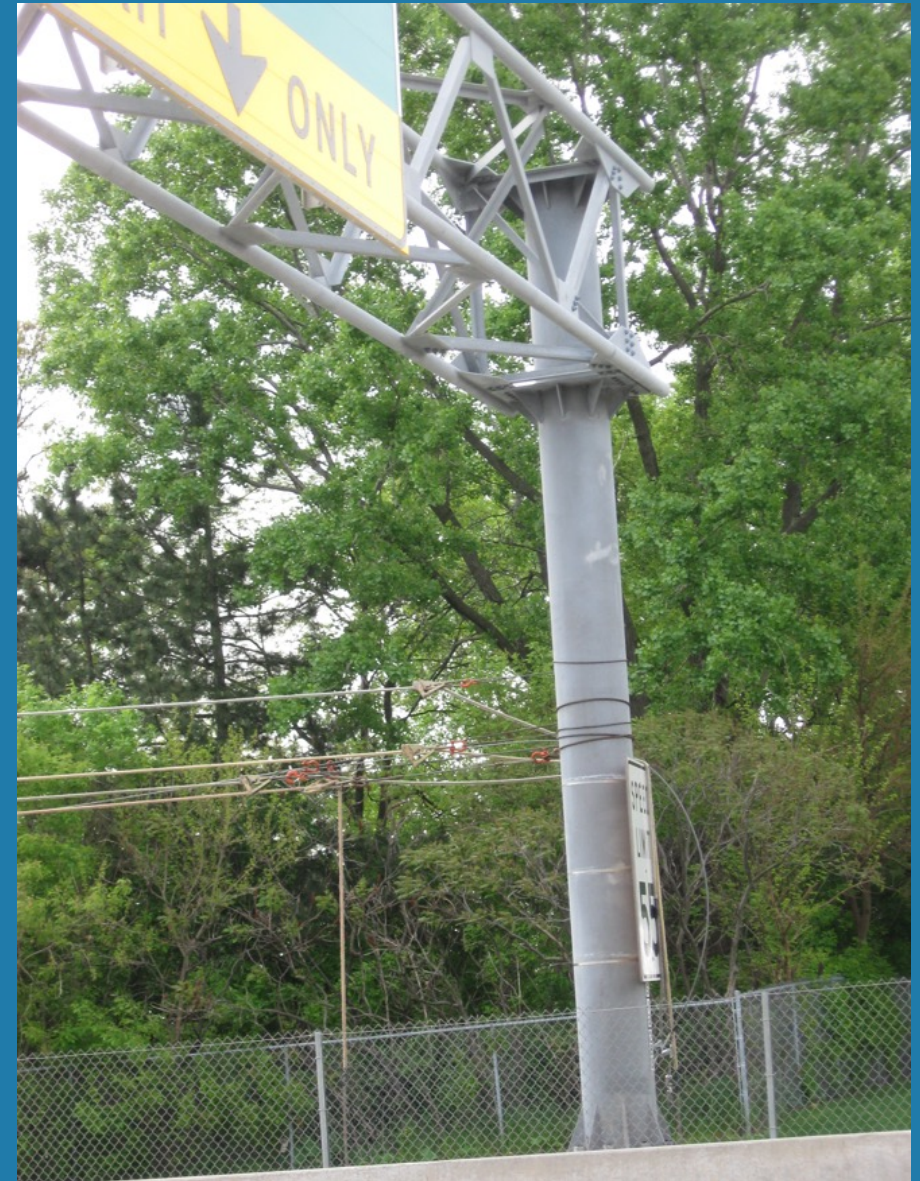


I-90/94, ATC Badger – Coulee project

Line Stringing?



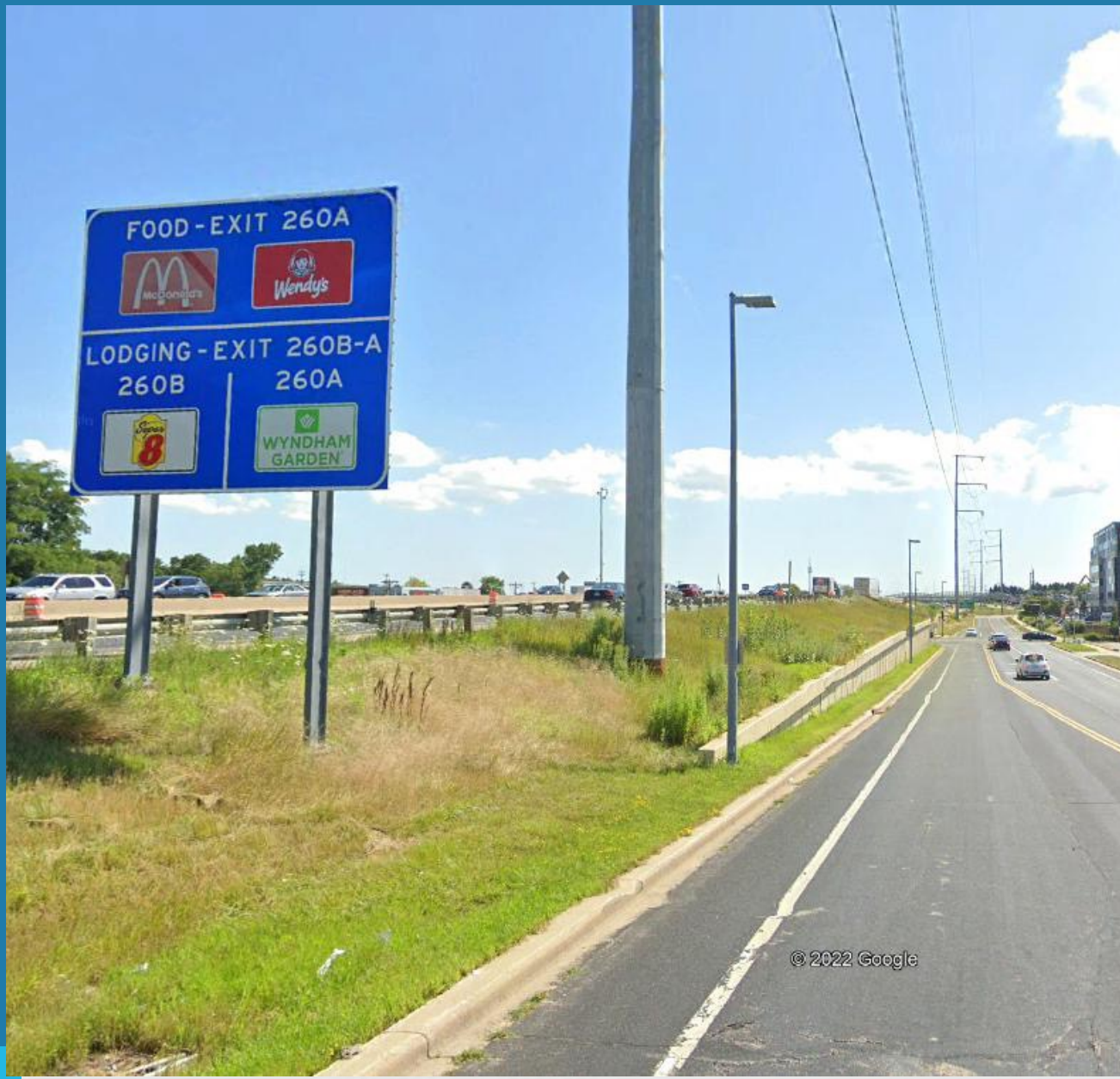
Content and photos from WisDOT



Electric Transmission in WisDOT ROW

- 26 projects
- 7 projects utilizing Interstate ROW
- ~225 miles in controlled-access highway ROW
- 0 projects requiring structure relocation

Designing Around Existing Transmission



Thank you!

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Optimist: The glass is HALF full
Pessimist: The glass is HALF empty
Engineer: The glass is TWICE the
size it needs to be