



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

July 22, 2025

Kristina Boardman
Secretary-designee, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
2822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary-designee Boardman,

As state elected officials representing Dodge County, it is our duty to prioritize public safety on state highways. We write to bring to your attention some concerning information about deteriorating public safety on State Highway 33—particularly the portion between its intersection with State Highway 26 and the eastern boundary of Dodge County.

Both Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) data and local law enforcement indicate the total number of motor vehicle crashes occurring on this section of highway has approximately doubled over the past five years. The rates of fatalities and injuries are higher, too. This two-lane highway now averages nearly one accident every eight days. Unfortunately, as traffic volume has increased, unsafe driver behavior (i.e., speeding, illegal passing, tailgating and recklessness) has intensified also.

In our experience, similar two-lane state highways that have seen similar increases in traffic volume, unsafe behavior and accidents (such as Highway 26 in Dodge County and Highway 23 in Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties, for instance) have been recommended by WisDOT for expansion to four lanes—recommendations that the Legislature accepted and enumerated for construction. Four-lane highways not only relieve traffic congestion caused by high utilization but also tend to drastically reduce both the number and the severity of traffic accidents.

Identifying, recommending and ultimately enumerating a major highway expansion project is a lengthy process. According to our information, WisDOT has not identified Highway 33 as a priority to be evaluated for expansion; did not recommend at the most recent opportunity (in February 2025) that such an expansion be researched by the Transportation Projects Commission; and has no plans even to consider developing the idea.

We acknowledge there are many highway expansion opportunities in our state that may be worthy of consideration. Our concern, however, is that although Highway 33 is quantifiably twice as dangerous as it was just five to ten years ago, WisDOT appears not even to have started contemplating the expansion that will very likely be necessary eventually and will require years of preparation, planning and budgeting.

On behalf of the thousands of our constituents, Wisconsin residents, and tourists who depend upon using Highway 33, we strongly urge you to begin the work of evaluating the steep decline in public safety on this roadway over the past few years and developing an array of options—potentially to include expansion to four lanes—for consideration of improvements to increase the safety of motorists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jagler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Jagler
State Senator
13th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Born", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Born
State Representative
37th Assembly District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Penterman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Penterman
State Representative
38th Assembly District