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System Development
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August 17, 2011

Geoffrey Farr P.E.
Director of Engineering
Department of Public Works
Village of Howard
1336 Cornell Road
Green Bay, WI 54313

Dear Mr. Farr:

This letter is a formal notification of our decision made by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Northeast Region Office in Green Bay to remove the fixed wall within the roundabout at the intersection of Shawano Avenue and Taylor Street. The decorative wall was a feature identified for integration into the roundabout during the Community Sensitive Design (CSD) process between WisDOT and the village of Howard. The reason for this decision is motorist safety.

We appreciate the investment of time the village of Howard spent during the CSD process to determine aesthetics on the corridor. We understand the Advisory Committee selected the design option, stamped with a colored-brick pattern and other architectural elements, to help create a gateway into the village of Howard. However, recently we were made aware of the implementation of more restrictive guidelines for roundabout design, which now clearly excludes fixed walls as possible enhancements, based on the undue risk they create to motorists. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is in concurrence with these guidelines.

As discussed during our phone call on August 15, WisDOT will work with village staff to identify additional landscape enhancements for the roundabout and other potential CSD elements. I have asked CSD Project Manager Danielle Block to contact you as soon as possible to begin that process.

We want to thank you in advance for understanding the need to balance safety and aesthetics. Should you have additional questions about our decision, I encourage you to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached at (920) 492-5684.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Dorsey".

Will Dorsey
NE region Director

