

Public Involvement Meeting

**Wisconsin Rapids, Second Avenue South
Gaynor Avenue to WIS 13
WIS 54/73
Wood County**

Project ID 6999-03-10



**August 23, 2016
5 to 7 p.m.
McMillian Library, All Purpose Room
Wisconsin Rapids**

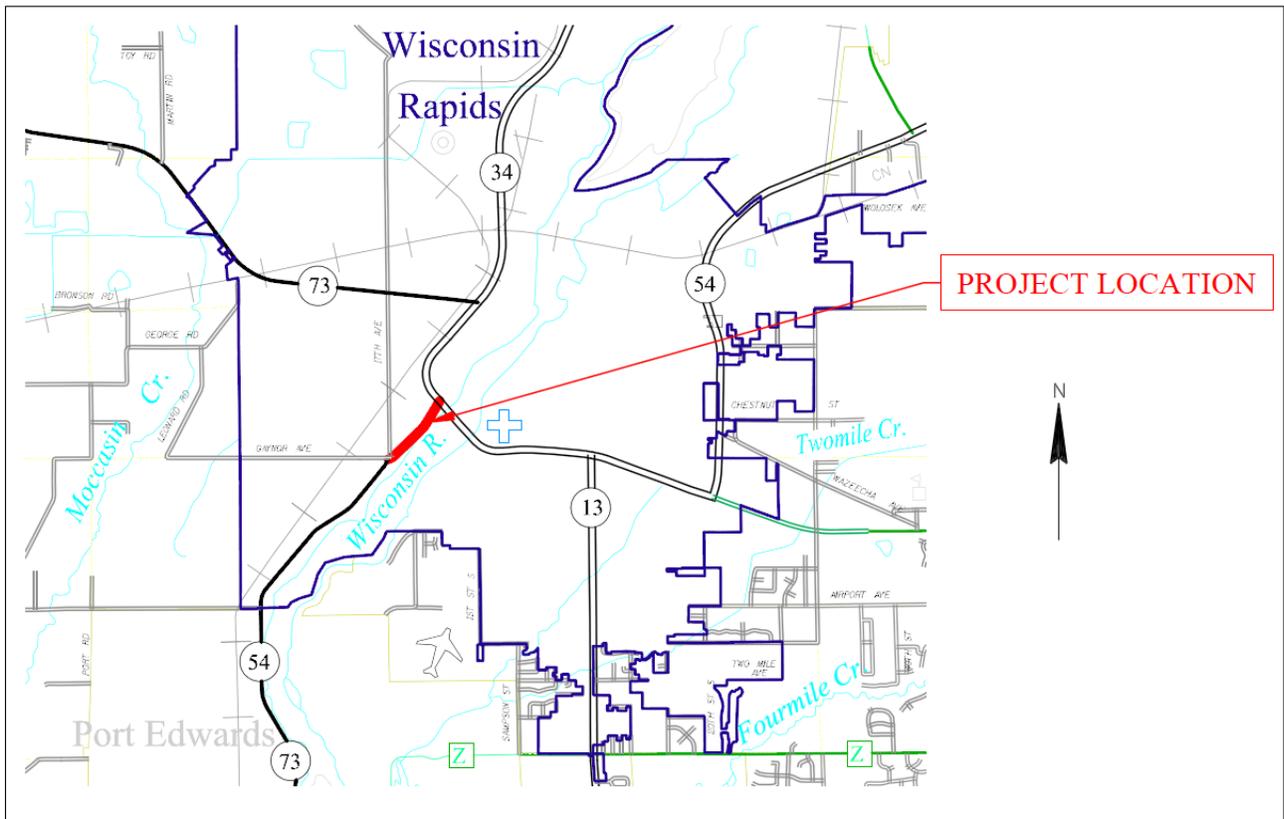
A brief presentation is scheduled to begin at 5:15 p.m.

Purpose of the meeting

The objective of today's meeting is to present information regarding the project purpose and need, review alternatives, answer questions and obtain your input. A brief presentation will begin at 5:15 p.m. After the presentation, the meeting will follow an open house format.

Purpose and need for roadway improvements

We are proposing to improve WIS 54/73 between Gaynor Avenue and the WIS 13/54/73 (Riverview Expressway) intersection in Wisconsin Rapids.



Project Location Map

We have identified several needs at this section of WIS 54/73:

- Traffic delays at the WIS 13/54/73 intersection
- Traffic signal timing at the WIS 13/54/73 intersection contributes to inefficient traffic movements
- Access near the WIS 13/54/73 intersection creates conflicts with turning intersection traffic
- Opportunity to improve pavement marking and signing to maximize roundabout efficiency

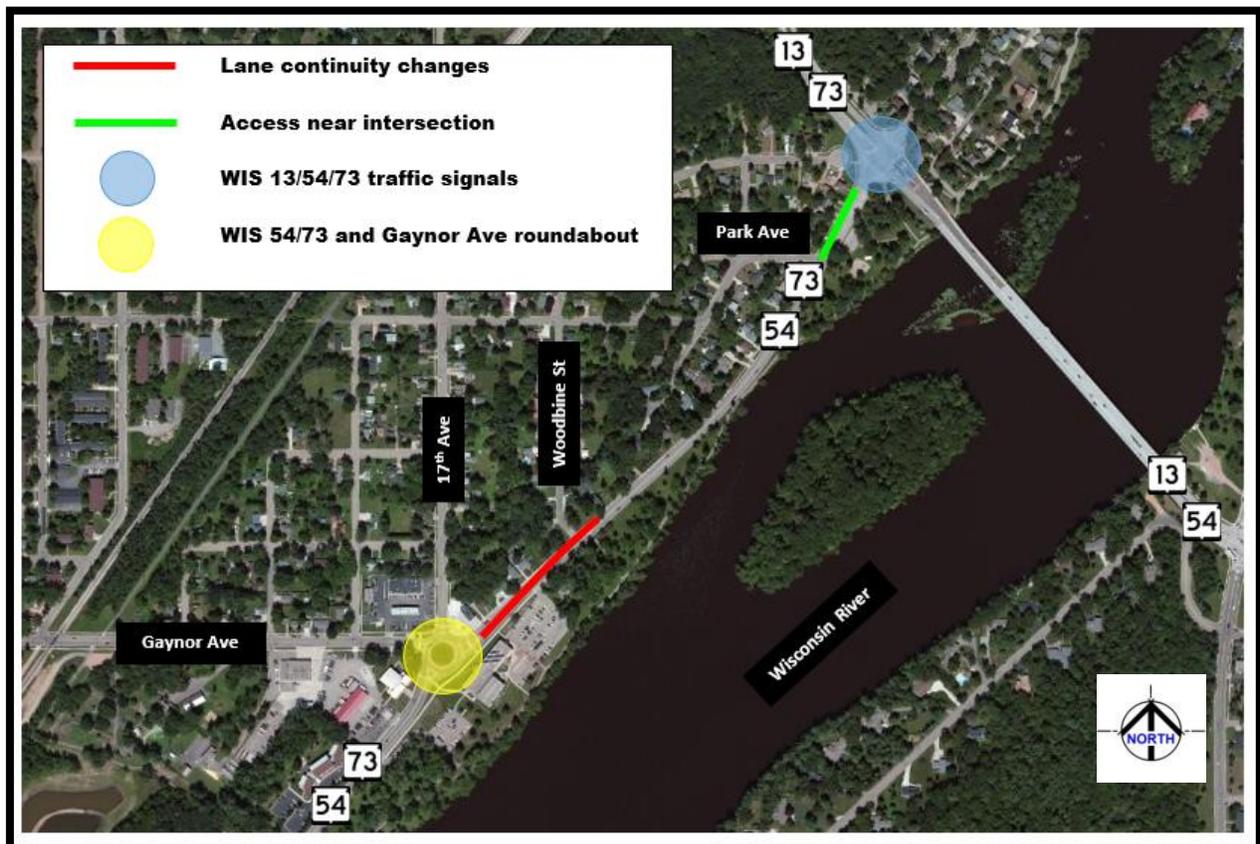
WIS 13/54/73 traffic signals and WIS 54/73 lane continuity

Westbound WIS 54/73 narrows from two lanes to one lane between WIS 13/54/73 and Woodbine Street. Because of this lane configuration, left-turning traffic along WIS 13/54/73 (northbound to westbound) is not effectively using the dual left-turn lanes at the signalized intersection with WIS 54/73. The driver's expectation at this location is causing traffic to back up on WIS 13/54/73 and the traffic backups are also leading to some crashes. Between January 2011 and May 2016, a total of seven sideswipe or rear-end type crashes were reported at the left turn lanes on WIS 54/73.

There are driveways located within 500 feet of the WIS 13/54/73 intersection; within the intersection's "area of influence." The area of influence affects how well an intersection functions. Design standards encourage avoiding access points within the area of influence so that intersection traffic movements do not conflict with other entering/exiting traffic outside of the intersection. From January 2011 to May 2016, there were 11 sideswipe, rear-end, or angle type crashes on WIS 54/73 between Woodbine Street and the WIS 13/54/73 intersection.

WIS 54/73 and Gaynor Avenue roundabout

This roundabout was one of the first constructed in Wisconsin. Improvements to design standards include signing and pavement marking on roundabout approaches to more effectively manage traffic. Large trucks moving in a westbound/southbound direction occasionally encroach into adjacent lanes. We plan to address this traffic movement by improving the signing and pavement marking approaching the roundabout.



Proposed improvements

Through a cooperative effort with the city of Wisconsin Rapids, we completed data collection and evaluations of existing conditions. A number of factors were considered:

- Traffic flow and movements through the WIS 13/54/73 intersection
- Safety conditions
- Signing and pavement marking
- Traffic movements and conditions within the 17th/Gaynor Avenue roundabout

We evaluated various improvements that will keep traffic moving safely and efficiently along WIS 54/73 between Gaynor Avenue and WIS 13. Proposed improvements include:

- Partial reconstruction/widening of WIS 54/73 to provide two westbound/southbound lanes from the Gaynor Avenue roundabout to Woodbine Street
- Traffic signal timing upgrades at WIS 13/54/73 to optimize traffic movements through the intersection
- Four driveways will be removed from WIS 54/73 and relocated.
- Pavement marking and signing improvements along WIS 54/73 between Gaynor Avenue and Woodbine Street to improve traffic movements entering the 17th/Gaynor Avenue roundabout

The city of Wisconsin Rapids is currently evaluating the need and potential schedule for pavement, signing and marking maintenance within the roundabout. These maintenance activities may coincide with the improvements to WIS 54/73.

Proposed traffic impacts

An improvement project is currently scheduled for 2019, but could occur as early as 2018. Construction is anticipated to take approximately two to three months.

During construction, WIS 54/73 and the WIS 13/54/73 intersection will remain open to traffic. Motorists can expect to encounter periodic flagging operations and single lane closures. Some brief nighttime closures will be necessary to install overhead signs.

Access to adjacent properties will be maintained during construction, however, brief interruptions in access may occur temporarily at driveways when work is occurring directly in front of your home or business. The contractor will be required to notify homeowners and businesses prior to construction.

Real estate

Some strip taking of right of way and temporary easements will be required to accommodate the lane widening and overhead sign installation. Real estate will be required from Ben Hansen Park and was evaluated through the environmental process in coordination with the city of Wisconsin Rapids. Additional real estate is required from other adjacent properties, as shown on the exhibits.

The city of Wisconsin Rapids expects to begin real estate acquisitions in late summer 2016. Representatives from WisDOT, the city of Wisconsin Rapids, and the city's real estate consultant are here tonight to discuss the real estate acquisition process.

Project update/next steps

- Local officials meeting August 13, 2015
- Public involvement meeting September 23, 2015
- Local officials meeting March 31, 2016
- Local officials meeting August 4, 2016
- Public involvement meeting August 23, 2016
- Real estate acquisitions Summer 2016 to summer 2017
- Final plans completed Summer 2017
- Construction currently scheduled 2019**

***Construction could occur as early as 2018*

For more information about the WIS 54/73 project, please visit the project website:
<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis54wis73/default.aspx>

Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Please forward your comments/input by **September 6, 2016**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this document
2. Or complete the online comment form <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis54wis73/public.aspx>
3. Or email comments or questions to the contacts listed below

Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. Your input is welcome and appreciated throughout the design process. For more information, please contact:

Design related questions:

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General questions:

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EMCS, Inc.
500 North 17th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
Attn: Stephanie Christensen

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