

Public Involvement Meeting

**C Schofield, Grand Avenue
Eau Claire River Bridge to
Lakeview Drive
Business 51
Marathon County**

Project ID: 6999-18-13 (83)

**C Wausau, Grand Avenue
Lakeview Drive to Kent Street
Business 51
Marathon County**

Project ID: 6999-02-10 (80)



**December 10, 2025
5:30 PM – 7 PM
Schofield City Hall
351 Alderson Street, Schofield WI 54476**

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled persons should contact the Wisconsin Relay Service for assistance by dialing 711.

Welcome

The purpose of the meeting is to present information on the proposed improvements, review the design concepts and obtain input that will assist the department in further development and refinement of a final design.

After a brief presentation, the meeting will follow an open house format.

Project Information

The project is located on Business 51 from the Eau Claire River Bridge to Kent Street in the cities of Schofield and Wausau, Marathon County.

Business 51 Location Map



Purpose and Need

The existing Business 51 pavement is showing signs of distress with spalling, cracking, and joint failure. The existing street lighting, traffic signals, and street signage do not meet current standards. In addition, curb ramps located throughout the project do not meet current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards. The existing bicycle accommodations also do not meet current width standards.

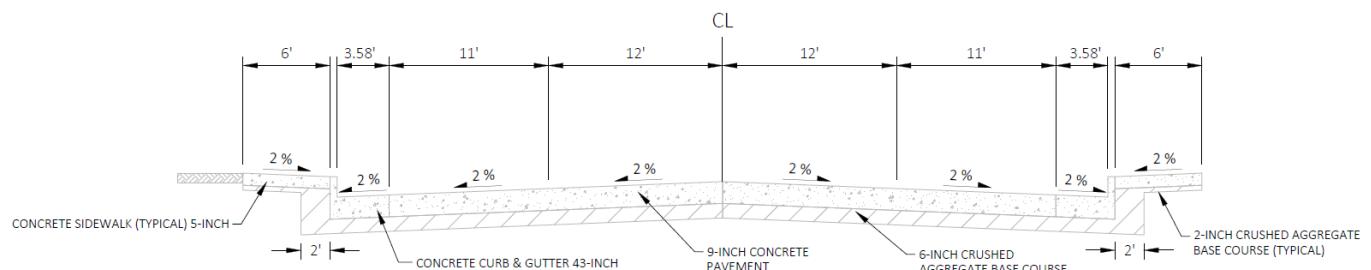
There have been six bicycle crashes in the past seven years that involved bicycles riding on the sidewalk that struck or were struck by vehicles leaving businesses.

The purpose of the project is to address the deteriorated roadway pavement, traffic signals, street signage, street lighting, curb ramps, and bicycle accommodations.

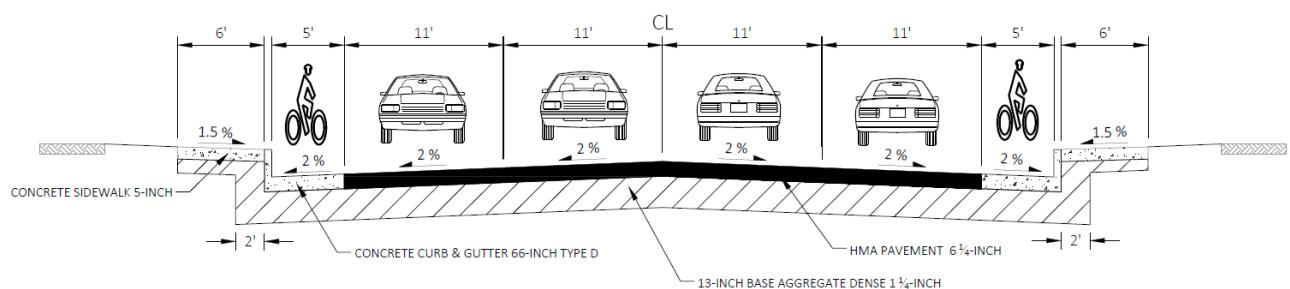
Proposed Improvements

The project proposes to remove all concrete (pavement, curb & gutter, and sidewalk) and base course, and install base aggregate, asphaltic pavement, and concrete curb & gutter with a wide gutter for use as a marked bicycle lane. The project also consists of the following proposed work actions:

- Adjust or replace existing inlets and manholes.
- Remove and replace traffic signals to provide a signal head per lane.
- Reduce the inside lane width from 12-foot to 11-foot from the Eau Claire River bridge to Lakeview Drive
- Provide a five-foot bicycle lane from the Eau Claire River bridge to Kent Street
- Install concrete sidewalk.
- Install curb ramps that meet ADA standards.
- Adjust street lighting as needed.



EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION - BUSINESS 51



FINISHED TYPICAL SECTION - BUSINESS 51

Proposed Bicycle Accommodations

A 5-foot bicycle lane was chosen because it has minimal impacts to other roadside facilities. If a bicycle accommodation wider than 5-foot is provided, impacts would include:

- Fire hydrants at existing back of sidewalk would need to be moved.
- Wooden poles for utilities and street lighting at back of sidewalk would need to be moved.
- All storm sewer inlets would need to be replaced.
- Retaining walls and buildings at the back of sidewalk would need to be moved or removed.
- Additional permanent real estate would be required as well.

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2030 but could occur as early as 2029. Construction is expected to take an entire construction season.

Business 51 will remain open to traffic utilizing single lane closures with bidirectional traffic and periodic intersection closures. Access will be maintained to businesses and residences during construction, except access may be limited during certain short-term periods. Motorists should expect some minor delays to occur.

Sidewalks within the project limits will be closed on each side of Business 51 that coincides with the lane closures. To provide pedestrian access to businesses and residences within the project limits, a free shuttle service will be provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The contact information for the shuttle service will be posted at locations where the sidewalk is closed. Shuttle service information will also be available on the 511 website during construction.

City of Wausau Bus Route A uses West Kent Street and Business 51. Kent Street will be closed for approximately 3 weeks to reconstruct the intersection. Bus Route A will remain operational and will be rerouted during the closure.

Real estate

Minor temporary and permanent real estate impacts are anticipated throughout the Business 51 corridor. New right of way will be required for sidewalk replacement, upgrading traffic signals, adjusting street lighting, and curb ramps. Temporary easement will be required for blending slopes and driveway match points.

The local municipalities will be acquiring the real estate for this project and will be reimbursed 100% of the costs by the department after all acquisitions are complete. For any questions regarding real estate acquisitions, please contact the City of Wausau or the City of Schofield.

Project update/next steps

Local officials meeting	November 6, 2025
Public involvement meeting	December 10, 2025
Environmental document approval	March 2026
Preliminary plans	May 2026
Final right of way plat	July 2026
Real estate acquisition begins	August 2026
Final plans	August 2028
Construction currently scheduled	2030, but could be as early as 2029

Public input/comments

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.

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Attached to this handout is a sheet for your written comments and input regarding the proposed project. Please mail any written comments about the project by **January 9, 2026** or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also email your comments to the contact listed below.

Project information is also available on the project website:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/bus51lakeview/default.aspx>

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled persons should contact the Wisconsin Relay Service by dialing 711.

For more information, please contact:

Zach Gruling
Project Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-421-8346
zachary.gruling@dot.wi.gov



Open for
Business

In This Together Program

A quick guide to help your business
prepare for road construction

1 ORGANIZE EARLY



- Learn more about the project and its timeline
- Develop questions for WisDOT staff
- Check in with neighboring businesses and/or local business organization



- *Can you partner on promotions, events or materials?*
- *Establish a point of contact for the business community?*



2 STAY ENGAGED WITH THE PROJECT

- Attend public involvement meeting(s)
- Make note of contact information for the project team, and voice the unique needs of your business
- Learn more about project resources



- *Is there a construction website?*
- *Is there a mailing list?*
- *Is there an email distribution?*



3 HELP CUSTOMERS FIND YOU



- Consult with project staff to determine when and where there may be closures or detours
- Ask about temporary signage options
- Consider how best to inform customers



- *Maybe a joint communication with neighboring businesses for employees and customers about traffic and parking?*
- *Maybe a feature article in a customer-facing newsletter?*
- *Maybe a social media post shared by businesses and local community pages?*

4 DEVELOP AND ACTIVATE YOUR GAME PLAN



- Check out case studies at wisconsindot.gov/together
- Connect with project contacts to discuss any potential obstacles specific to your business such as deliveries, operational hours, employee parking, etc.
- Check in with employees



- *Is there a consistent message for customers?*
- *Are there temporary changes to shift times, parking, or deliveries?*



5 END OF CONSTRUCTION



- Stay positive, be flexible and know that WisDOT staff are available to help
 - Collect any temporary signage
 - Let customers know!
- *Consider working with other businesses on a special event?*
 - *Share social media about the project's benefits?*
 - *Ask customers to help spread the word?*



Remember, we are In This Together! For
more planning ideas, tips and resources:
wisconsindot.gov/together

Public Involvement Comment Form

Project ID 6999-18-13 / 6999-02-10
C Schofield; C Wausau
Eau Claire River Bridge to Kent Street
Business 51
Marathon County

Please mail by **January 9, 2026** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to zachary.gruling@dot.wi.gov. 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Would you like a response to your comments? Yes No

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)

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The information in this document including names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and signatures is not confidential, and may be subject to disclosure upon request, pursuant to the requirements of the Wisconsin open records law, sections 19.31 - 19.39 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

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Place
Stamp
Here

Attn: Zach Gruling, P.E.
WisDOT North Central Region – Wisconsin Rapids
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

To mail, fold here and tape.