

# Public Involvement Meeting

**Business 51  
Rothschild – Schofield  
Everest Drive to Eau Claire River Bridge  
Marathon County**

**Project ID: 6999-10-15**



**Aug. 15, 2024**

This handout and other items are available on this project's design website at  
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/bus51marathon/default.aspx>

*Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to your feedback.*

## Purpose

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is in the process of developing plans for proposed improvements on approximately 2 miles of Business 51 in the Marathon County. The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the proposed improvements, describe the potential impacts, and offer an opportunity for public comment.

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 and are welcomed and appreciated throughout the design process.

Included at the end of this handout, as well as on the project website, is a comment form that may be used for written comments regarding the proposed improvements. You are encouraged to fill out this form and return using the pre-paid mailer attached. Comments may also be submitted via email or phone to the contact listed below.

## Project location

The project is located on Business 51 in the city of Schofield and the villages of Rothschild and Weston.



## Project purpose and need

The pavement was reconstructed in 1967 and 1977 with concrete pavement with ongoing repairs and overlays have occurred between 1991 and 2020. The existing pavement is deteriorating with cracking and rutting throughout. The pavement has met the end of its service life

Additional needs include:

- Cracking concrete pavement on the WIS 29 loop ramps
- Deteriorating and undersized storm sewers
- Deteriorating and outdated guardrail
- Deteriorated sections of municipal sewer and water
- Lack of sidewalk on the east side from WIS 29 to Jelinek Avenue
- Curb ramps do not meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards
- Failing concrete side slope (slope paving) between Ross Avenue and Drott Street
- Deterioration on the bridge deck over the Eau Claire River (B-37-280)
- Outdated traffic signal equipment at all signalized intersections (6)
- Ongoing crashes resulting in severe injuries at four intersections. The project qualified for safety improvement funding in 2021.

### Safety needs

- WIS 29 eastbound ramp terminal
  - 2014 to 2018: 68 total crashes
  - 52 westbound rear-end crashes within the dual right turn lanes on exit ramp
- WIS 29 westbound ramp terminal/West Grand Avenue
  - 2014 to 2018: 75 total crashes
  - 44 rear-end crashes along Business 51
  - 10 angle crashes during left turning movements
- Schofield Avenue/Metro Drive
  - 2014 to 2018: 70 total crashes
  - Crash trends:
    - 18 crashes within northbound free flow right turn lane to eastbound Schofield Avenue
    - 17 crashes along westbound Schofield Avenue due to poor lane signing and marking
    - 6 crashes along eastbound Business 51 due to conflict with a driveway in the turn lane
- Eau Claire Street
  - 2014 to 2018: 14 total crashes
  - 7 northbound rear-end crashes caused by vehicles waiting to turn left
  - No existing left turn lanes at the intersection



## Proposed improvements

The following improvements are proposed to address the project needs.

### ***Pavement improvements***

- Everest Drive to the Eau Claire River
  - Full depth pavement replacement with new asphalt pavement
  - New curb and gutter
- WIS 29 loop ramps
  - Repair the concrete pavement and repair drainage facilities

### ***Drainage improvements***

- Replace inlets and manholes from Everest Drive to Metro Drive
- Replace the entire drainage system from Depot Street to the Eau Claire River
  - Flooding at low point under railroad overpass near Depot Street
  - Requires reconstruction of Eau Claire Street west of Business 51 and a portion of West Grand Avenue in the city of Schofield
  - Abandon the existing storm sewer system located on private property
- Replace the entire drainage system from Eau Claire Street to the Eau Claire River

### ***Pedestrian improvements***

- Replace all curb ramps to meet ADA standards, where feasible
- Construct new sidewalk along the east side of Business 51 between the WIS 29 eastbound ramp terminal and Jelinek Avenue

### ***Traffic signals and safety improvements***

- Install new traffic signals at all signalized intersections
  - WIS 29 eastbound ramp terminal
  - WIS 29 westbound ramp terminal/West Grand Avenue
  - Ellen Street
  - Kort Street/Jelinek Street
  - Schofield Avenue/Metro Drive
  - Grand Avenue/Drott Street
- Geometric modifications to reduce crashes and improve safety at four locations
  1. WIS 29 eastbound ramp terminal intersection
    - Modify turn lanes on the exit ramp to improve traffic flow within the dual right turn lanes
  2. WIS 29 westbound ramp terminal/West Grand Avenue intersection
    - Modify the Business 51 left turn lanes with an offset
    - Improves sight lines for left turning traffic
  3. Schofield Avenue/Metro Drive intersection
    - Modify the northbound to eastbound free flow right turn lane
    - Lengthen the eastbound right turn lane
    - Modify the eastbound and westbound left turn lanes to improve traffic flow including replacement of the overhead sign
  4. Eau Claire Street intersection
    - Modify the intersection to provide for a northbound left turn lane
    - Evaluate closure of the east leg of the intersection with a cul-de-sac

### ***Other improvements***

- Replace sections of municipal sewer and water throughout the project
- Replace guardrail along the west side of Business 51 near Ross Avenue
- Construct a new retaining wall between Ross Avenue and Drott Street
- Relace the polymer overlay and place a flood seal on the bridge over the Eau Claire River (Structure B-37-280) to preserve the bridge deck
- Replace signing and pavement marking

## Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2029 and 2030

- Construction could begin as early as the fall of 2028.

There will be numerous stages to manage traffic throughout the project area.

- Business 51 will be generally open to bi-directional traffic (one lane in each direction)
  - A short-term full closure may be required at Business 51/Drott Street/Grand Avenue to accommodate utility installations
  - Driveway access would be right in/right out during various stages
- From Metro Drive/Schofield Avenue to Drott Street, Business 51 does not have a median
  - One-way conditions will be required for various stages
  - Detours will be posted along West Grand Avenue, Schofield Avenue and Ross Avenue
- Side road and ramp closures
  - Closures required during some pavement and utility work
  - Intersection and ramp closures are proposed to be staggered (i.e. every other intersection)
  - Local and emergency circulation will be maintained
- Eau Claire Street and West Grand Avenue drainage improvements
  - Roadways will be closed to through traffic during drainage work
  - Local and emergency access will be maintained

More details will be shared on sequencing and staging at future meetings. Frequent coordination will occur with property owners and businesses during construction to communication stages and changes in traffic control.

## Real estate

Right of way and easements are required for the project at spot locations.

- Minor new right of way will be required near intersections for some intersection modifications and curb ramps.
- Temporary easements will be required for blending slopes, driveway match points, staging, and utility connections.
- Permanent easements and new right of way will be required for the storm sewer outfall to the Eau Claire River located west of Grand Avenue.

Preliminary real estate needs are shown on the exhibits.

A landowner rights pamphlet is available and WisDOT will contact any impacted property owners directly during the design process. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in fall 2025.

## Project update/next steps

- Initial public notifications – July 2022
- Scope coordination with local officials and concept design – spring 2022 to fall 2024
- Local officials meeting – July 17, 2024
- Public involvement meeting – Aug. 15, 2024 \*
- Concept plans – fall 2024
- Environmental document – spring 2025
- Preliminary plans – summer 2025
- Right of way acquisition – fall 2025 to spring 2028
- Final plans – May 1, 2028
- Business coordination meeting – fall 2028
- Construction – 2029 and 2030 \*\*

\*Additional public meetings will be held, as required, during the design and construction process.

\*\* Construction could begin as early as fall of 2028

## 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.

There are several ways to submit your input by **Aug. 30, 2024:**

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. Complete the fillable online survey on the project website  
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/bus51marathon/default.aspx>
3. Email comments or questions to the contact(s) listed below

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

For more information, please contact:

Korey Boehm, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
(715) 421-8311  
[korey.boehm@dot.wi.gov](mailto:korey.boehm@dot.wi.gov)

**\*\*SCROLL DOWN FOR THE COMMENT FORM\*\***





# 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](http://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](http://wisconsindot.gov/together)

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# Public Involvement Comment Form

Project ID 6999-10-15  
Rothschild – Schofield  
Everest Drive to Eau Claire River Bridge  
Business 51  
Marathon County

Please mail by **Aug. 30, 2024** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to [Korey.Boehm@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Korey.Boehm@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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Attn: Korey Boehm, P.E.  
WisDOT North Central Region – Wisconsin Rapids  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

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To mail, fold here and tape.