

Public Involvement

US 51
Merrill to Tomahawk
Lincoln County
Project ID: 1176-21-32



Purpose of Handout

To educate the public on the scope, schedule, and potential impacts of the Merrill to Tomahawk US 51 project. To also provide the public with an opportunity to comment and provide input.

Project Information

The project will extend the service life of the roadway.

We are proposing to improve 16.5 miles of US 51 with three projects.

- 1176-21-72 – 7.41 Miles from County K to County H
 - concrete joint repair and slab repair with a four-inch asphalt overlay.
- 1176-21-73 – 6.16 Miles from County H to Little Pine Creek
 - concrete pavement replacement
- 1176-21-62 – 2.93 Miles from County J to County S
 - concrete joint and slab repair with a thin mill and overlay of the County S northbound and southbound ramps

Environmental review is expected to be completed by June 2025.

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2028, with an advanceable construction as early as 2027.

During most of the construction, the roadway will be constructed one side at a time, closing one side for construction while the other side has bi-directional traffic. Existing crossovers at County K and County S may be utilized to accommodate this. Nighttime ramp closures are anticipated.

Real estate

This project is not anticipated to require any additional right-of-way or temporary land acquisitions.

Project schedule/next steps

Local officials meeting	June 5, 2025
Public involvement	June/July 2025
Preliminary plans	June 2025
Environmental document	June/July 2025
Design Review	September 2025
Utility Coordination	September 2025
Final plans	May 2026

Construction currently scheduled	2028 but could occur as early as 2027
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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 **July 14, 2025**:

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/us51lincoln/default.aspx>
3. Email comments or questions to the contact listed below

For more information, please contact:

Andrew Casper, P.E.
Project Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
(715) 365-5713
Andrew.casper@dot.wi.gov

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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 1176-21-32
Merrill to Tomahawk
Herb Mitchell Rd north of County S to just north of the County K interchange
US 51
Lincoln County

Please mail by **July 14, 2025**, to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to Andrew.casper@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 someone to contact you about this project: Yes ___ No ___

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)

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: Andrew Casper, P.E.

WisDOT North Central Region – Wisconsin Rapids

1681 2nd Ave Sout

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

To mail, fold here and tape.