

Public Involvement

WIS 17
US 45 to Michigan State Line
Vilas County
Project ID: 9195-08-01/02



December 15, 2025 to January 15, 2026

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

Purpose

The purpose of public involvement is to present design concepts for the proposed improvements along WIS 17, address impacts to traffic during construction and to obtain your input.

Project Information

The purpose of the project is to preserve the roadway and extend the service life.

We are proposing to improve 19 miles of WIS 17.

Proposed improvements include:

- 19 miles of milling and placing new asphalt pavement
- 1 culvert pipe replacement
- 1 culvert lining
- 5 guardrail replacements
- 4 protective thermoplastic coating at snowmobile trail crossings
- 13 curb ramp replacements in Phelps

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for the summer of 2029.

During construction, WIS 17 will remain open to traffic using flagging operations. Motorists can expect some delays to occur, but delays will be managed through limiting contractor operations at critical times. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained except for short periods while construction operations are directly adjacent to the entrances.

Real estate

Right of Way acquisitions will be needed at two parcels for curb ramps in Phelps and one parcel at the culvert located in the curve by Gravel Pit Road. Temporary Limited Easement will be needed at five parcels for curb ramps in Phelps and two parcels at the culvert located in the curve by Gravel Pit Road. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in January 2027.

Project update/next steps

Local officials meeting	November 2025
Public involvement	Dec. 15, 2025 – Jan. 15, 2026
Preliminary plans	May 2026
Environmental document	June 2026
Final right of way plat	August 2026
Real estate negotiations	January 2027 – June 2027
Final plans	May 2028
Construction currently scheduled	Summer 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.

There are several ways to submit your input by **Jan. 15, 2026**:

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/wis17vilas/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:

Marijean Hoppe, P.E.
WisDOT Project Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
North Central Region
510 Hanson Lake Road
Rhineland, WI 54501
(715) 365-5880
marijean.hoppe@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



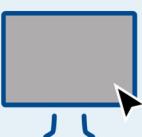
- *Is there a consistent message for customers?*
- *Are there temporary changes to shift times, parking, or deliveries?*



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 9195-08-01/02
Eagle River – Michigan State Line
US 45 to Michigan State Line
WIS 17
Vilas County

Please mail by **Jan. 15, 2026** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to marijean.hoppe@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)

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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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Here

Attn: Marijean Hoppe, P.E.
WisDOT North Central Region - Rhinelander
510 Hanson Lake Road
Rhinelander, WI 54501

To mail, fold here and tape.