

Public Involvement Meeting Handout

**US 12
Eau Claire – Fairchild
Otter Creek Bridge B-18-0113
Eau Claire County**

Project ID: 7090-00-09



**March 12, 2026
5 – 7 p.m.
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library**

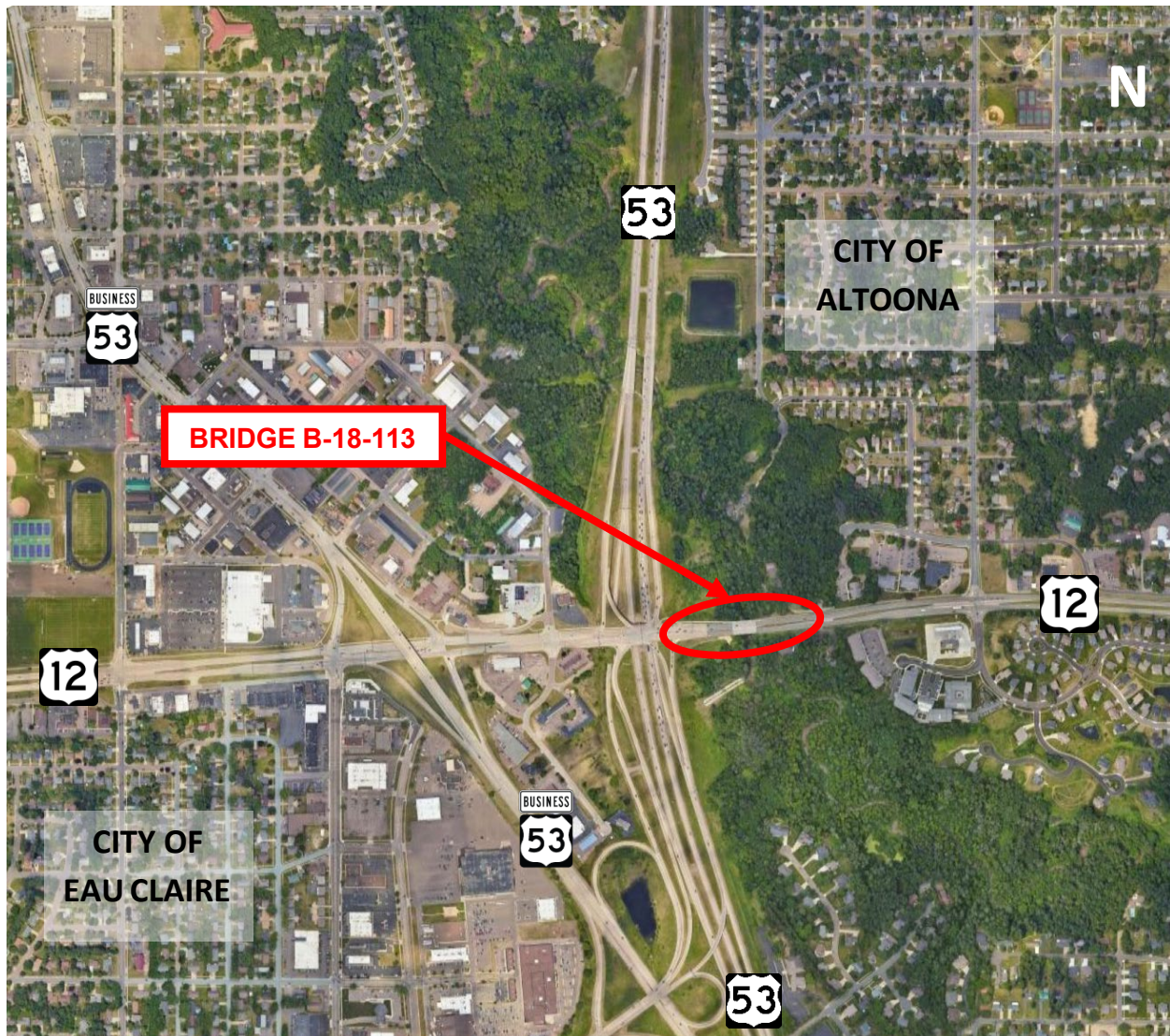
Purpose of the meeting

This meeting aims to obtain input on the proposed improvements along US 12 at the Otter Creek Bridge (B-18-113), inform the public of the proposed traffic control during construction and solicit feedback. The meeting will follow an open-house format, and project staff will be available to discuss the project and answer questions.

The Otter Creek Bridge (B-18-113) conveys US 12 traffic over Otter Creek and carries two lanes of eastbound traffic and three lanes of westbound traffic. The bridge was built in 1988 when US 12 was expanded to a four-lane divided highway. In 2004, the bridge received an overlay and new joints. In 2005, US 12 was reconstructed, and new approach slabs were added adjacent to the bridge. The structure itself was not improved. Special grading was also done on Otter Creek. In 2016, a left-turn lane was added to US 12 westbound on B-18-113.

The purpose of this project is to preserve the function, operation and safety of this bridge in the overall transportation system. The primary need is to address the deteriorating bridge structure.

Project Location Map



Project information

WisDOT is proposing to improve 0.166 mile of US 12. Proposed improvements include:

- Replacing the existing bridge B-18-113 with a new bridge B-18-253
- Providing grading for future multimodal connectivity opportunities
 - Any future multimodal projects would be administered by local municipalities.
- Relocating the existing sign bridge structures S-18-88 and S-18-89
- Reconstructing the roadway approaches to accommodate the new bridge
- Improving the westbound left-turn lane median taper
- Replacing guardrail
- Replacing storm sewer
- Replacing fencing
- Replacing signing
- Making lighting modifications

The project will provide a crossing to carry motorists safely over Otter Creek and extend the useful life of the roadway facility. All improvements will meet current safety standards.

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2028.

During construction, US 12 will remain open to traffic via staged construction. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in the westbound direction. Traffic will remain open to two lanes in the eastbound direction. The design team is investigating the use of a shuttle service for pedestrians and bicyclists during the second phase of construction while vehicle traffic is shifted to the south side of the proposed bridge. Motorists can expect to encounter lane closures and traffic crossovers. Local emergency access will be maintained throughout construction.

Construction is currently scheduled for completion in the fall of 2028.

Real estate

Additional right of way will be required for this project. Permanent fee acquisition and temporary limited easements are anticipated to accommodate grading at the proposed bridge. Preliminary right-of-way impacts are shown on the exhibits. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition later this year.

Project update/next steps

A local officials meeting was held on April 10, 2025. The first public involvement meeting for the project was held on April 17, 2025.

The table below summarizes the current schedule for this project.

Public Involvement Meeting	March 12, 2026
Environmental Document Completion	Summer 2026
Final Right of Way Plat	Fall 2026
Real Estate Negotiations	2026/2027
Final Plans	August 2027
Construction Currently Scheduled	2028

Public input/comments

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 before April 16, 2026, or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also email your comments to the contact 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:

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

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Eau Claire, WI 54701

Attn.: Daniel Rambo

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