

# Public Involvement Meeting

**Chippewa Falls - New Auburn  
40th Avenue to County B  
US 53  
Chippewa County**

ID 1190-08-09 (79)



**July 20, 2020**

**Rather than holding an in-person meeting, public involvement efforts have moved online as a precaution against COVID-19 based on the most current health information from state, federal and local health departments.**

**The Wisconsin Department of Transportation continues to review prioritization and potential alternatives for public meetings and events.**

**This handout and other meeting items are available on the design website at:**

**<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53chippewa/default.aspx>**

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

## Purpose of the meeting

The objective of today's meeting is to obtain your input on the identified needs and proposed improvements along US 53 between 40th Avenue and County B in the city of Chippewa Falls, village of Lake Hallie and towns of Wheaton and Tilden in Chippewa County.

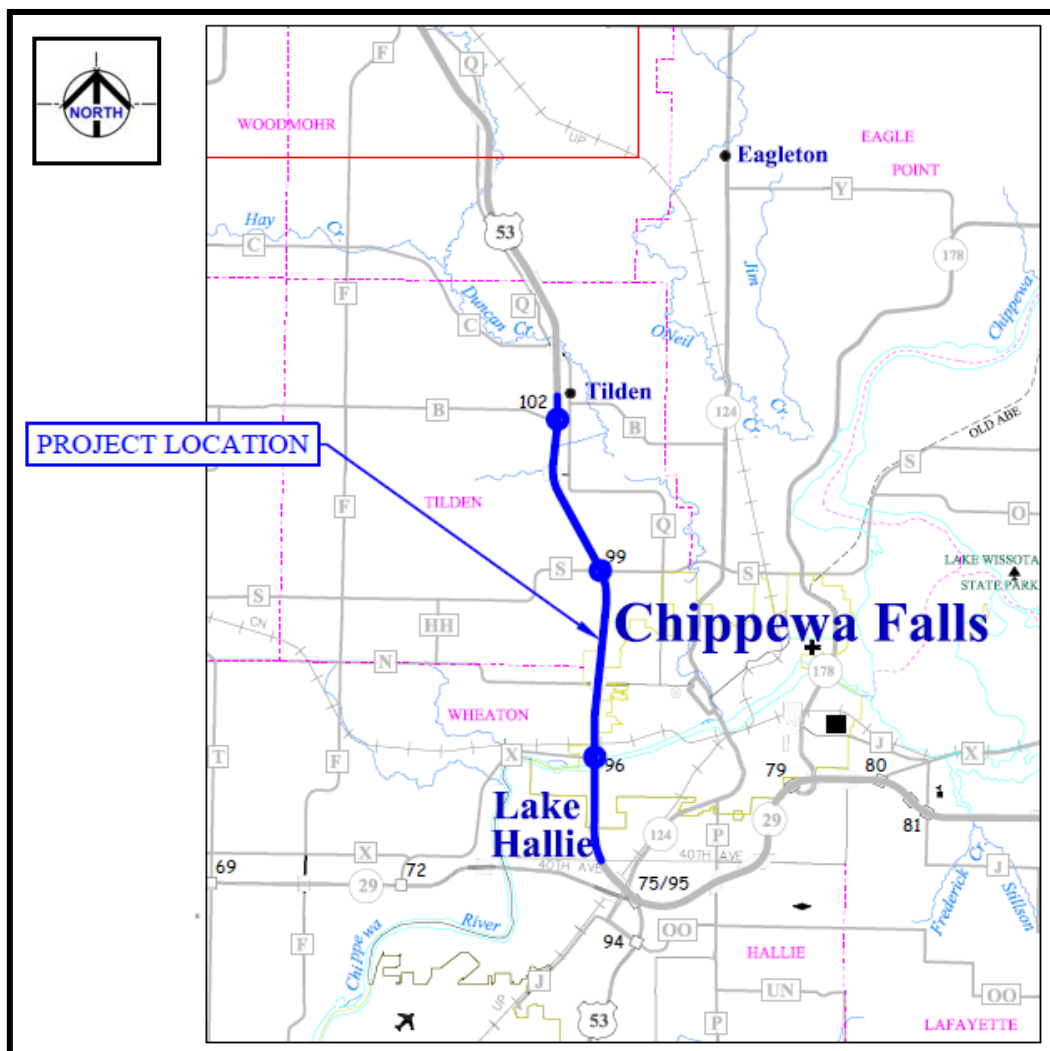
## Purpose and need for roadway improvements

The primary project purpose is improving the condition of the pavement on US 53 to provide motorists with a highway that both meets safety standards and provides a high level of service.

The project need is defined by the improvements that must be made to the highway to address its deteriorated condition. In its current state, existing asphaltic pavement on US 53 and at the Bus 29/County X, County S and County B interchanges is exhibiting signs of deterioration in the form of cracking and rutting. Also, the US 53 bridges over the Chippewa River and Bus 29/County X are deteriorating. To meet the project need, a proposed solution must attempt to correct these key issues.

If no action is taken, the pavement structure life will be significantly reduced, and the ride quality will continue to worsen. The US 53 pavement was reconstructed in the 1970s and last resurfaced in the mid-2000s. The pavement is nearing the end of its service life.

## Project location



## Recommended improvements

- Rehabilitation of the pavement is no longer cost effective and pavement replacement is warranted to ensure safe maintenance of traffic on this high priority route.
- The existing pavement will be removed and replaced with new concrete pavement and a new aggregate drainage layer on US 53 and the Bus 29/County X, County S and County B interchange ramps. The pavement will also be replaced along County S and County B between the ramps.
  - The existing roadway alignment and number of travel lanes will be maintained.
  - No intersection or interchange modifications are warranted by current safety conditions and existing intersection configurations are proposed to be maintained.
- Polymer overlays (skid resistant surface) will be placed on the US 53 bridges over the Chippewa River and over Bus 29/County X to help maintain the bridge decks and aid in reducing crashes in this area.
- Installation of plantings for snow fence to minimize snow drifting at four locations.
- Drainage culvert repairs and maintenance will be completed.
- Guardrails will be replaced throughout the project.
- Pavement marking and shoulder rumble strips will be replaced.
- Right-of-way fencing will be removed and replaced.
- The recommended improvements are subject to approval of the final environmental document.

## Real estate

Work is anticipated to occur within the existing right of way.

New right-of-way fence will be placed inside the existing right of way (typically 3-feet). If the fencing helps to contain livestock, please contact WisDOT so that we can coordinate with you during replacement of the fence.

## Proposed traffic impacts

Construction of US 53 is proposed to take place starting in spring 2022 and extending through mid-2024 to accommodate staged construction and minimize traffic delays along US 53.

During construction, motorists can expect to encounter single-lane closures and bidirectional traffic conditions on each side of US 53. Speeds will be reduced to 60 miles per hour.

Construction of temporary crossovers is proposed to manage traffic movements between north- and southbound US 53 during construction. Temporary crossovers will also be constructed to provide access at the interchanges.

### **Interchanges**

During construction of the interchange ramps at Bus 29/County X, County S and County B, ramps will be closed for designated periods to allow for pavement replacement.

- Ramp closures will not occur at consecutive interchanges at the same time.

Along the crossroad through each interchange, traffic will be managed as follows:

- Bus 29/County X: Through traffic (east-west) will always be maintained along Bus 29/County X with periodic lane closures of the outside westbound travel lane during ramp intersection construction.
- County S: Through traffic (east-west) will always be maintained along County S with traffic shifts and narrow lanes (10-feet) to accommodate pavement replacement work between the ramp intersections.
- County B: During pavement replacement between the ramp intersections, County B will be closed for a short period of time (anticipated two weeks).

### **Construction schedule**

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Work Location</b>	<b>Traffic Conditions</b>
Spring 2022	Temporary crossovers along US 53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-lane closures on US 53</li> <li>• All interchanges open</li> </ul>
Summer 2022	County S interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>County S ramps closed (approx. 4 weeks)</b></li> <li>• Staged two-way traffic on County S</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53</li> </ul>
Fall 2022	NB US 53 from County S to County B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from County S to County B</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County S</li> <li>• <b>NB entrance at County B closed (approx. 3 weeks)</b></li> </ul>
Winter Shutdown	No work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All lanes and all interchanges open</li> </ul>
Spring 2023	NB US 53 from 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to County S Bus 29/ County X interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. to County S</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County S</li> <li>• <b>Bus 29/County X ramps closed except SB exit ramp</b></li> <li>• Two-way traffic on Bus 29/County X</li> </ul>
Summer 2023	Bus 29/ County X interchange County B interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bus 29/County X ramps closed; open ramps by July 4</b></li> <li>• Two-way traffic open on Bus 29/County X</li> <li>• <b>County B ramps closed (late summer for approx. 4 weeks); SB entrance ramp remains closed into fall</b></li> <li>• Two-way traffic on County B, except <b>during short term detour (approx. 2 weeks)</b></li> </ul>
Fall 2023	SB US 53 from County S to County B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from County S to County B</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County S</li> <li>• All interchanges open</li> </ul>
Winter Shutdown	No work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All lanes and all interchanges open</li> </ul>
Spring 2024	SB US 53 from 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to County S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. to County S</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County S</li> <li>• All interchanges open</li> </ul>
Summer 2024	US 53 median removals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-lane closures on US 53</li> <li>• All interchanges open</li> </ul>

#### Notes:

- Bolded text indicates a short-term detour or ramp closure
- Current ramp closure periods shown above are preliminary and may be adjusted in final design
- Ramps are currently anticipated to be open for holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day)
- Spring = Before Memorial Day
- Summer = Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Fall = After Labor Day
- SB = Southbound; NB = Northbound

## Project update/next steps

- Concept plans November 2019
- Local officials meeting July 2020
- Public involvement meeting July 2020
- Preliminary plans Summer 2020
- Environmental document Summer 2020
- Final plans August 2021
- Construction Spring 2022 to Summer 2024

## Project design website

Access the following materials on the project design website:

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53chippewa/default.aspx>

- Project background
- This handout and comment form
- Project presentation
- Project exhibits showing the proposed improvements and construction staging

## Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Please forward your comments/input by **Aug. 3, 2020**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this document
2. Or email comments or questions to the contacts 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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