

Public Involvement Meeting

**New Auburn – Spooner
Wildcat Road to County A (NB &
SB) US 53
Washburn County**

ID 1197-18-08/78



May 21, 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/us53spooner/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 Wildcat Road and County A in the towns of Beaver Brook and Spooner and city of Spooner.

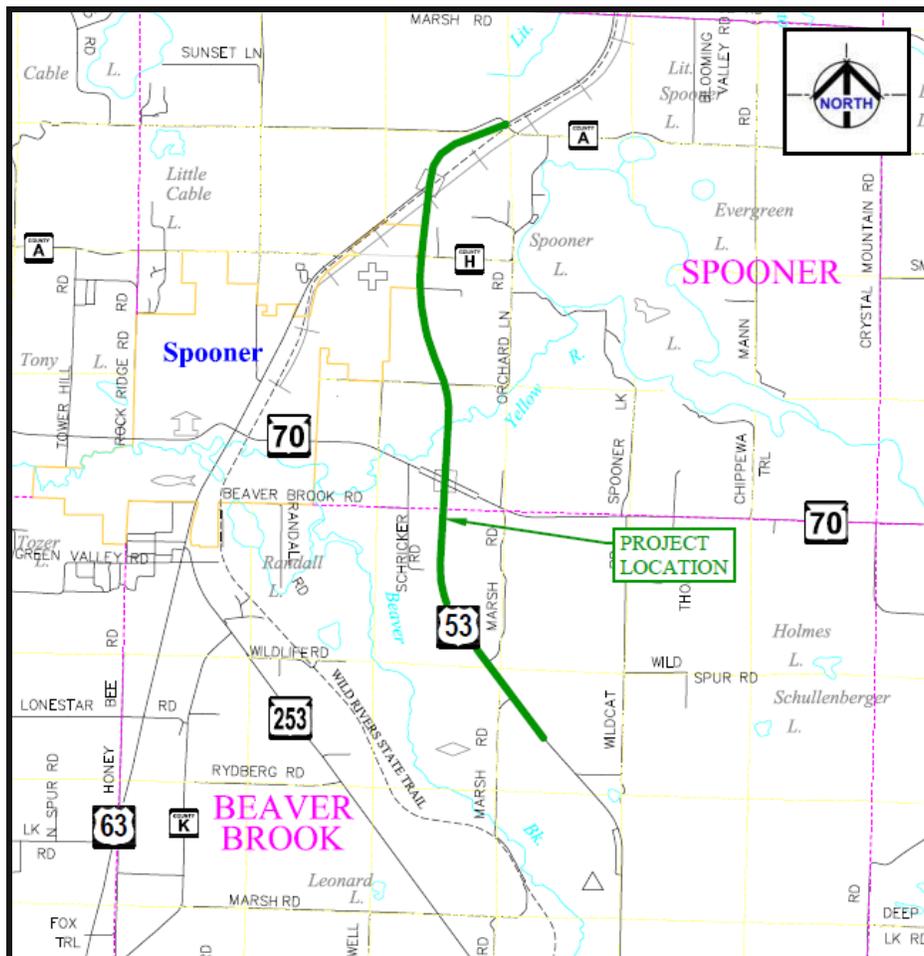
Purpose and need for roadway improvements

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 at the US 63 and WIS 70 interchanges exhibits signs of deterioration in the form of alligator, longitudinal and transverse cracking, as well as rutting. Also, the US 53 bridges over US 63 and the Yellow River and the WIS 70 bridge over US 53 are showing signs of deterioration. 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 1980s and last resurfaced in 2015. The pavement is nearing the end of its service life.

Project location

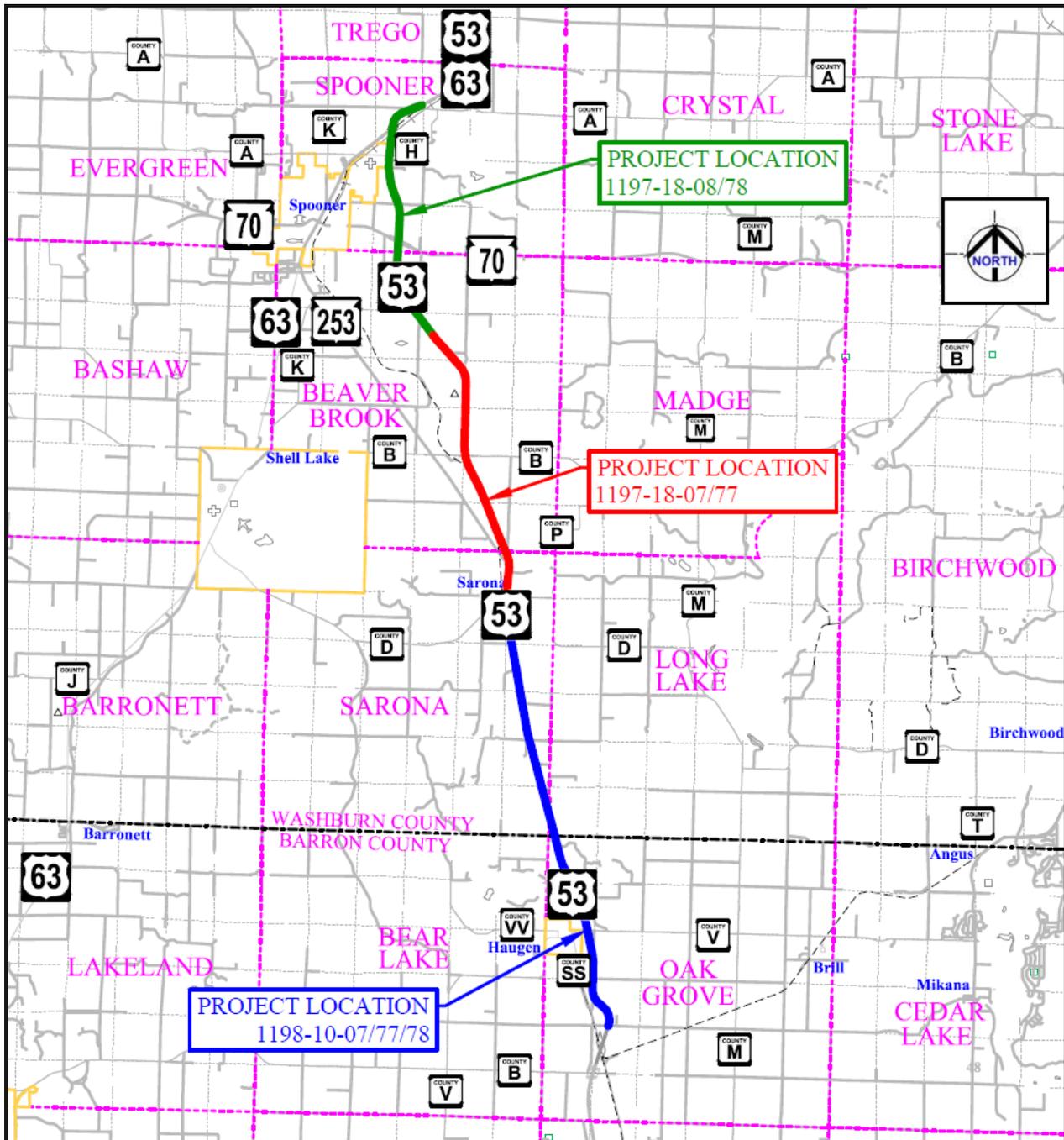


Other US 53 projects

Pavement replacement improvements are planned along US 53 extending from 26th Avenue in Barron County to County A in Washburn County under multiple projects.

The project from 26th Avenue to Pine Grove Road (ID 1198-10-07/77/78) is planned for construction in 2024 but could be advanced to 2023 depending on availability of funding. The project from Pine Grove Road to Wildcat Road (ID 1197-10-07/77) is planned for construction in 2023 but could be advanced to 2022 depending on availability of funding.

Separate public involvement meetings were held for these projects.



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 and a portion of the aggregate drainage layer will be replaced on US 53 and on the US 63 and WIS 70 interchange ramps.
 - The existing roadway alignment and number of travel lanes will be maintained.
 - No intersection changes are warranted by current safety conditions and existing intersection configurations are proposed to be maintained.
- The bridges on US 53 over the Yellow River (north- and southbound), US 53 over US 63 (north- and southbound) and WIS 70 over US 63 would be rehabilitated with concrete deck overlays and other miscellaneous repairs.
- Polymer overlays (skid resistant surface) would be placed on the US 53 bridges over US 63 to aid in reducing crashes in this area.
- Culvert repairs and maintenance will be completed.
- Pavement marking and shoulder rumble strips will be replaced.
- Right of way fencing will be removed and replaced, where warranted.
- 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). Some locations of existing fence are present outside of the existing right of way. These areas are shown on the exhibits.

- Where existing fence is present outside of the right of way, a construction permit will be requested from the adjacent property owner to complete removal of the fence during construction. Fence removal will be completed by the WisDOT contractor.
- If the property owner elects to not issue WisDOT a construction permit, the existing fence will remain in place and the new fence will be placed within the right of way.

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction of US 53 is proposed to take one construction season (April to November) with some finishing work occurring the following spring.

During construction, motorists can expect to encounter single-lane traffic on each side of US 53. Speeds will be reduced to 55 miles per hour.

Construction of temporary crossovers are proposed north of Veteran's Way and north of County A. The temporary crossovers will be used to manage traffic movements between north- and southbound US 53 during construction. Temporary crossovers will also be constructed to provide access at the US 63 and WIS 70 interchanges.

During construction the ramps at US 63 and WIS 70 will be closed for designated periods to allow for pavement replacement. No ramp closures will occur at US 63 and WIS 70 at the same time to ensure circulation in the Spooner area.

Traffic shifts and narrow lanes (11-feet) will be used on WIS 70 to accommodate bridge and pavement work between the ramp intersections. During short periods, access to and from US 53 will be restricted. Through traffic (east-west) will always be maintained on WIS 70.

Intersections

Temporary intersection modifications (pavement widening) are planned to accommodate protected left turn movements at the following intersections:

- County H
- County A

Traffic movements at other at-grade intersections will be allowed during construction.

Driveways

Typically, all driveways to be restricted to right-in/right-out movements during construction to maintain safe traffic conditions.

Recreational traffic

Traffic along Wild Rivers State Trail will be maintained.

Construction stages

- Stage 1: Construct temporary intersection modifications along southbound US 53 and temporary crossovers with single-lane closures.
- Stage 2: Single-lane/two-way traffic on southbound US 53; construct new pavement on northbound US 53 and on the northbound ramps at the US 63 and WIS 70 interchanges.
- Stage 3: Construct additional temporary crossovers at the US 63 and WIS 70 interchanges.
- Stage 4: Single-lane/two-way traffic on northbound US 53; construct new pavement on southbound US 53 and on the southbound ramps at the US 63 and WIS 70 interchanges.
- Stage 5: Complete median areas and all work not completed in previous stages with single-lane closures.

Project update/next steps

- Local officials meeting December 2018
- Concept plans February 2020
- Local officials meeting May 2020
- Public involvement meeting May 2020
- Environmental document Summer 2020
- Preliminary plans Summer 2020
- Final plans May 2022
- Construction 2024 (scheduled), 2023 (early)*

* Construction could be advanced depending on availability of funding.

Project design website

Access the following materials on the project design website:

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53spooner/default.aspx>

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

Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Please forward your comments/input by **June 4, 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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Place
Stamp
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Attn: Philip Keppers, P.E.

To mail, fold here and tape.