

This presentation is for the project on US 53 between Wildcat Road and County A in the towns of Beaver Brook and Spooner and city of Spooner, Washburn County.

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.

All meeting materials, including the handout with a comment form, are posted on the design website for this project.

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

If you have any questions, please contact WisDOT Project Manager, Philip Keppers at (715) 395-3027.

# Public Involvement Meeting

## US 53 Wildcat Road to County A

May 21, 2020



# Project team

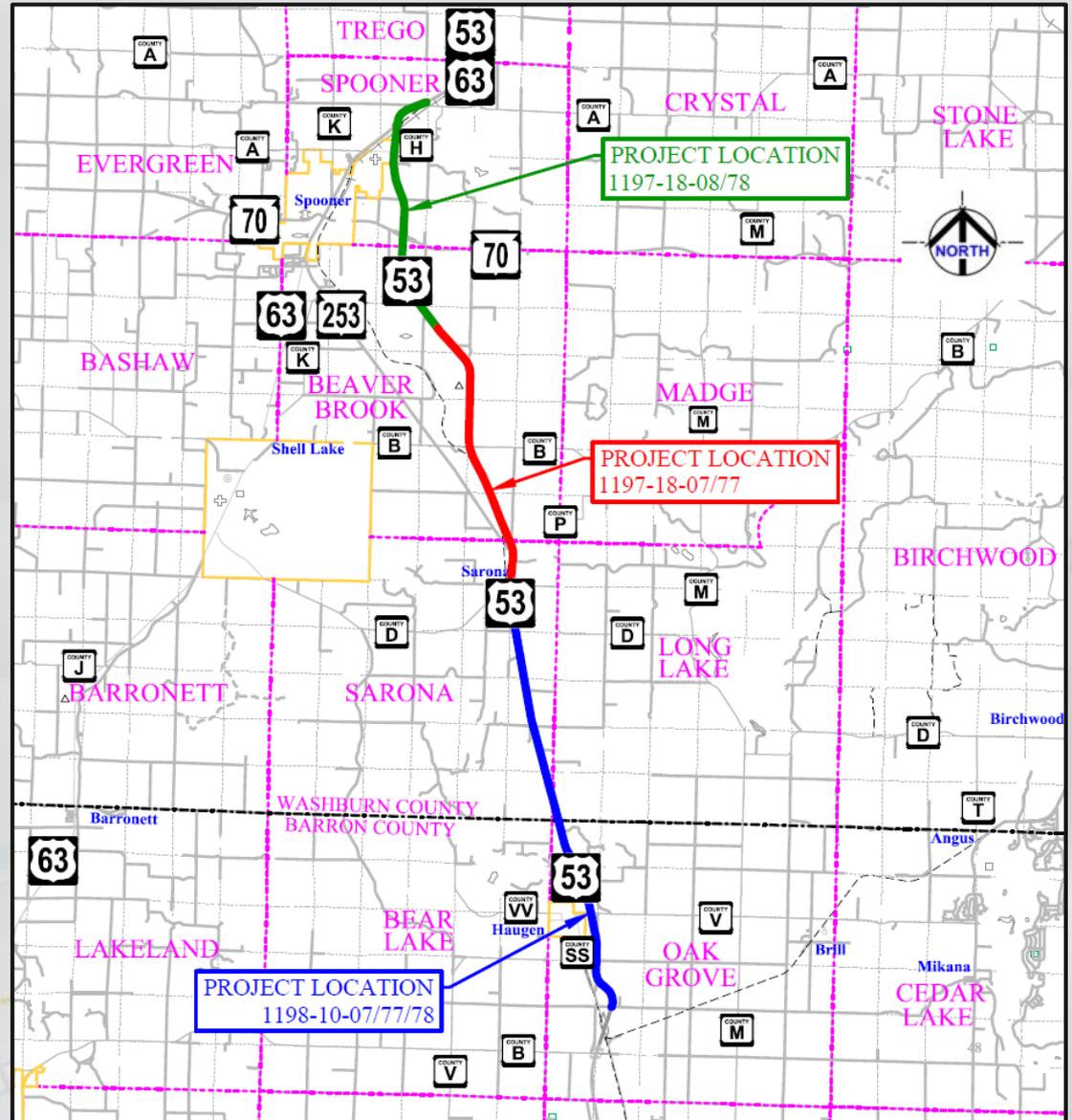
- WisDOT Northwest Region
  - Philip Keppers, P.E. – Project Manager
- EMCS, Inc.
  - Stephanie Christensen, P.E. – Consultant Designer

# Meeting objectives

- Project location
- Project purpose and need
- Proposed improvements
- Construction staging and schedule
- Real estate
- Current project schedule
- Discussion



# Other US 53 Projects



# Purpose and need

- US 53 importance
  - Part of the National Highway System
  - Truck route including movement of oversized-overweight loads
  - Serves local commuters and businesses
  - Interstate link to Minnesota
- WisDOT's objective is to ensure the safe and efficient operations of the state's highway system while supporting local access

# Purpose and need

- Pavement deterioration

- Original construction in mid-1980s
- Concrete rehabilitation in 2007/2008
- Asphaltic overlay in 2015
- Cracking and rutting due to poor underlying concrete
- The pavement is nearing the end of its service life

- Bridge deterioration

- US 53 over US 63 and the Yellow River
- WIS 70 over US 53

# US 53 proposed improvements

- Pavement improvements are recommended to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently
- A pavement replacement alternative is proposed
  - Asphaltic pavement overlay is not a cost-effective solution for this high-traffic corridor
- Pavement replacement best addresses the project needs
  - Balances level of investment in the roadway system with the added pavement life achieved

# US 53 proposed improvements

- Place new concrete pavement
  - US 53
  - Interchange ramps at US 63 and WIS 70
  - WIS 70 between ramps
- Pavement replacement
  - Partial replacement of the aggregate drainage layer
  - Maintain existing alignment and travel lanes
  - Maintain existing intersection configurations

# US 53 proposed improvements

- Repair bridges
  - Concrete overlays and other miscellaneous repairs
  - Wing wall replacements at the Yellow River
  - Anti-skid surface on the US 53 bridges over US 63 to minimize crashes
- Repair deteriorated culverts
- Replace right of way fencing, where warranted
- Replace marking and shoulder rumble strips

# Current construction schedule

- Construction is planned for 2024
  - Construction could be advanced to 2023 depending on available funding
- Construction is anticipated to take one construction season
  - April to November
  - Finishing work could extend into the following spring

# Proposed construction staging

- Maintaining safety and mobility during construction are high priorities
  - Traffic can be maintained effectively with one lane in each direction
- Construction is proposed to be completed in five stages

# Proposed construction staging

- Stage 1
  - Construct temporary intersection modifications along southbound US 53 and temporary ramp crossovers.
  - Traffic located on existing roadways with single-lane closures.
- Stage 2
  - Construct new pavement on northbound US 53.
  - Single-lane/two-way traffic located on southbound US 53.
  - Construct northbound ramps at US 63 and WIS 70.

# Proposed construction staging

- Stage 3
  - Construct additional temporary crossovers at the US 63 and WIS 70 interchange to accommodate changes in traffic patterns with single-lane closures.
- Stage 4
  - Construct new pavement on southbound US 53.
  - Construct southbound ramps at US 63 and WIS 70.
  - Single lane/two-way traffic located on northbound US 53.

# Proposed construction staging

- Stage 5
  - Complete any remaining median areas and all work not completed in previous stages.
  - Traffic located on existing roadways with single-lane closures.

# Proposed construction staging

- Temporary crossovers facilitate movements between northbound and southbound US 53
  - North of Veteran's Way
  - North of County A
  - Ramp access at US 63 and WIS 70 interchanges

# Proposed construction staging

- At the US 63 and WIS 70 interchanges, short-term ramp closures will be implemented.
  - Two- to four-week closure at each ramp (final schedules to be determined).
  - US 63 and WIS 70 ramp closures will not occur at the same time.
  - Interchange ramps will be open for Spooner Rodeo and Washburn County Fair.
- WIS 70 will be open to through traffic with lane shifts and narrow lanes.

# Proposed construction staging

- Temporary intersection modifications are proposed to accommodate protected left turns.
  - County H
  - County A
- Other intersections will remain open during construction.
- Maintain recreational trail traffic on the Wild Rivers State Trail.
- All driveways will be right-in/right-out movements.

# Real estate needs

- All work inside the existing right of way
- Right of way fencing will be replaced, where required
  - Some existing fence locations are outside the right of way.
  - New fence will be placed within the existing right of way.
  - A construction permit will be requested from the adjacent property owner to remove the fence.

# Current project schedule

- Local officials meeting – December 2018
- Concept plans – February 2020
- Local officials meeting – May 2020
- Public involvement meeting – May 2020
- Final environmental document – Summer 2020
- Preliminary plans – Summer 2020
- Final plans – May 2022
- Construction – 2024\*

\* Construction could be advanced to 2023 depending on available funding

# Project design website

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

The screenshot shows the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website. The navigation menu includes: DMV ONLINE SERVICES, DMV INFO, DOING BUSINESS, TRAVEL, PROJECTS AND STUDIES, and ABOUT WISDOT. The 'PROJECTS AND STUDIES' menu is open, showing options: Projects and studies by mode, Data and planning resources, Environmental information, In This Together, Life of a highway project, Six Year Highway Program, Statewide plans, and Solvency. The main content area is titled 'Northwest Region Highway Projects and Studies' and includes a 'COVID-19 Update' section under 'Construction'. A map of the Northwest region is shown in the bottom right corner, highlighting counties: Burnett, Polk, Barron, Washburn, Seward, Ashland, Rusk, Taylor, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Clark, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, and Trempealeau.

STEP 1

PROJECTS AND STUDIES

Search Wisconsin DOT

## Northwest Region Highway Projects and Studies

### COVID-19 Update

#### Construction

WisDOT continues to monitor the public health crisis as it applies to essential highway maintenance and construction projects. Workers who support the construction of critical or strategic infrastructure are considered essential by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

STEP 2

### Projects in Design (Construction scheduled)

#### Ashland County

- [WIS 13, Park Falls - Mellen](#)

#### Barron County

- [WIS 48, Cumberland - Rice Lake](#)

#### Barron and Washburn counties

- [US 53, 26th Avenue \(Barron County\) - County A \(Washburn County\)](#)

#### Bayfield and Ashland counties

STEP 3

