

# Public Involvement Meeting Handout

**WIS 169**  
**WIS 13 to Ashland/Iron County Line**  
**Ashland County**

Project ID: 9925-00-00 Design  
9925-00-70 Construction



**Winter 2022-23**

## Project purpose

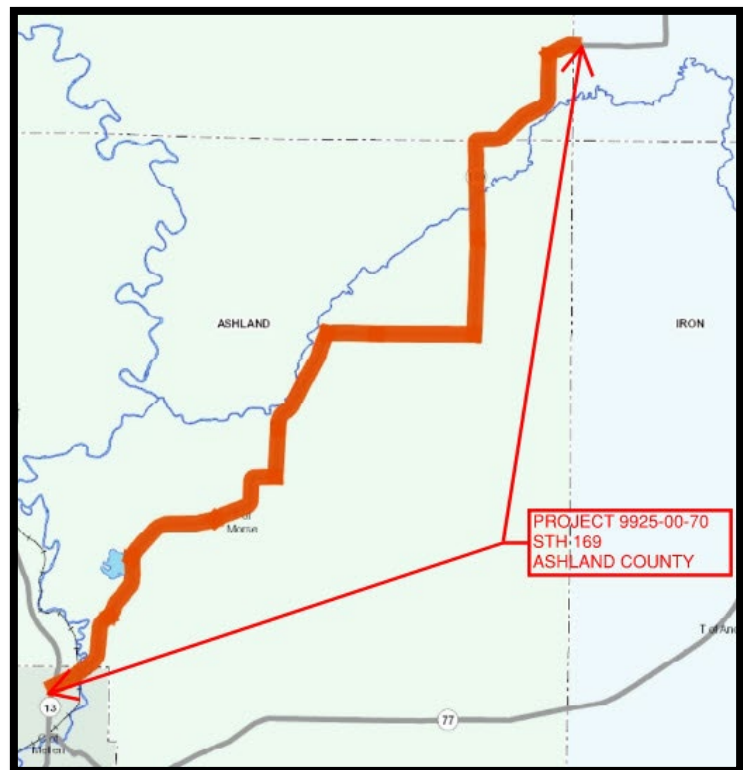
The purpose of this project is to preserve the function, operation and safety of this route and the overall transportation system. The primary need for the project is to address the deteriorating pavement structure. The secondary need is to repair declining drainage culverts. These improvements are proposed to prevent future flooding and roadbed deterioration. The project will also enhance gravel shouldering, adjust existing guardrail and complete ditch repair near the Copper Falls State Park entrance. Coordination is ongoing with officials from the park and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bad River Tribe, Ashland County Highway Department and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Project information

WisDOT is proposing to improve 10.3 miles of WIS 169 by:

- Milling off 2 inches of existing asphaltic pavement and replacing it with 3.25 inches of new hot-mix asphaltic pavement.
- Replacing several pipes and adding pipes in two locations.
- Repairing the eroding ditch near Copper Falls State Park.
- Adjusting guardrail where needed.

The new surface is intended to extend the life of the road, provide a smoother and enhance safety. In addition, new pipes will help extend the road integrity.



Environmental coordination is ongoing. Wetland impacts have been identified, and any permanent impacts will be mitigated. An endangered resource survey will be conducted next summer to identify and avoid any endangered resources that may be present on the project. The project has been cleared for impacts to historical properties, but an archaeological review is ongoing.

There has been discussion of a bike path from Copper Falls State Park to the city of Mellen. Wetland delineation included the park entrance in the event approvals and funding are obtained prior to finalizing this project.

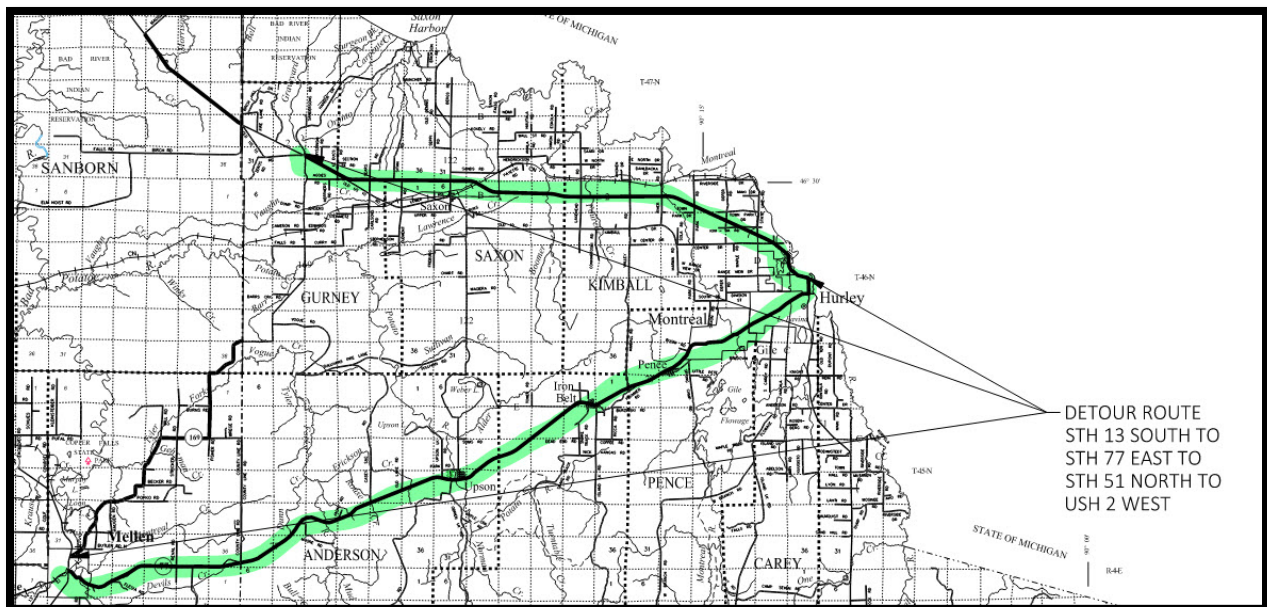
The railroad crossing near WIS 13 will be rebuilt during the project by the railroad. The highway will be closed at that time, and a detour route has been selected to accommodate truck traffic.

## Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2026.

During the bulk of construction, the road will be open to traffic and work will be completed half at a time. There will be minor delays of up to 15 minutes. During replacement of the railroad crossing, the road will be closed for about a week, and traffic will be. An image of the proposed detour is below.

The project should last approximately 70 days and will cover most of the summer months.



## Real estate

No additional right of way will be needed for most activities. The ditch repair near the park entrance will encroach onto park property. It is only a temporary encroachment, and our real estate section is determining how to properly address the issue.

## Project update/next steps

No additional meetings are planned for this project. Public announcements will be made prior to beginning construction.

The project is proceeding through the environmental approval process, and that review should be complete approximately a year from now. Final design will begin shortly after that.

## **Public input/comments**

We encourage you to talk to project representatives and ask them questions. 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.

A comment form is attached to this handout. Please mail any written comments about the project before Feb.28, 2023. Comments also can be sent via email by that date to the contact listed below.

For more information, please contact:

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

1701 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

Superior, WI 54880

Attn.: Michael Pearson

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