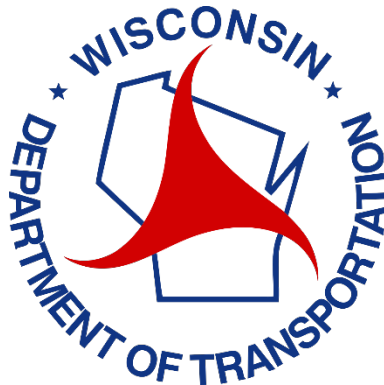


# Project Handout

**Blair – Merrilan  
B-27-0234, B-27-0808  
WIS 95, Jackson County**

**Project ID: 7520-00-08, 7520-00-09**



**In-person Public Involvement Meetings (PIM) currently are not being held based on the most current health information from state, federal and local health departments.**

**Instead, a prerecorded presentation, this handout and other project information is available at <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/wis95jackson/default.aspx>**

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

## Purpose of Public Involvement

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is in the process of developing plans for the reconstruction of two bridges on WIS 95 in Jackson County, west of Merrilan.

Public involvement is important to discuss the proposed projects and get feedback on the work and accompanying detours. Input received will be considered during the design process to help minimize impacts to drivers and the community.

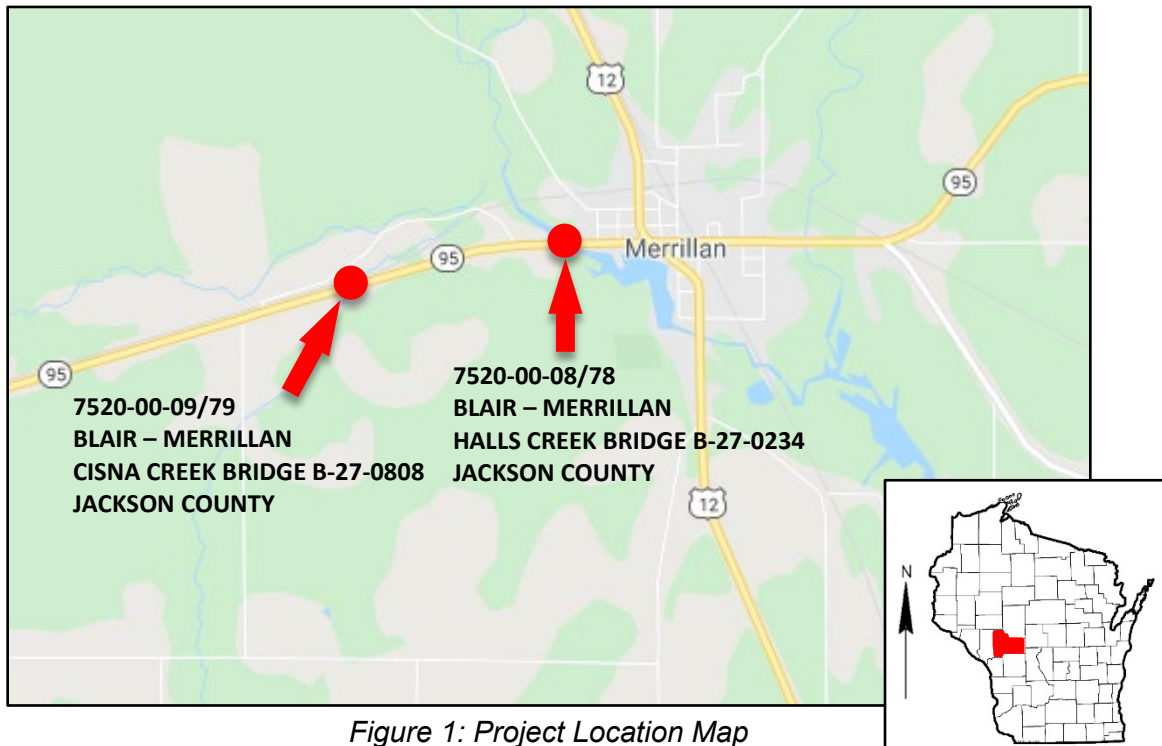
The first step of public involvement was meeting with the local officials from Jackson County, the village of Merrilan and the town of Alma. A virtual meeting was held on July 28, 2020, and there were no major concerns from the officials. Project information now is available to the public, so you too have the chance to voice your opinions on the projects.

This handout follows the same format of the local officials' presentation and covers the following:

- Project Location
- Project Purpose and Needs
- Design Alternatives
- Project Information
- Detour and Traffic Impacts
- Project Schedule
- Comments and Question/Answer

## Project Location

The proposed projects are located along WIS 95, in Jackson County, between Alma Center and Merrilan. See Figure 1 below.



## **Project Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed projects is to maintain safe travel along WIS 95 between Alma Center and Merrillan in Jackson County.

The proposed projects are needed to address the following:

- Structure deterioration
- Meeting the current design standards for roads and bridges
- Drainage

The existing structures over Halls Creek (B-27-0234) and Cisna Creek (B-27-0808) were built over 70 years ago, are showing noticeable deterioration and have less than satisfactory ratings.

The ratings used are a sufficiency rating on a scale of 0-100 and National Bridge Inventory (NBI) ratings on the deck, superstructure and substructure that are on a scale of 0 (failed) to 10 (excellent). For 2019, Halls Creek Bridge was given a sufficiency rating of 51.7 and an average NBI rating of 4.3. Cisna Creek Bridge was given a sufficiency rating of 34.8 and an average NBI rating of 4.3. These ratings put the bridges slightly above poor condition but below satisfactory establishing their need for an improvement.

Along with structure deterioration, design standards for roads and bridges have been updated since the bridges were built, and the structures currently have little drainage making them susceptible to standing water and ice. The proposed projects would bring both structures up to date with standards and incorporate proper drainage of water off the bridge decks.

## **Design Alternatives**

Three design alternatives were considered for the two projects, they are:

- No action
- Rehabilitation
- Reconstruction

No action was not recommended given the age and state of the two bridges. Without action, both structures and the corresponding WIS 95 corridor would eventually be deemed unsafe to travel.

Rehabilitative measures, such as a deck overlay or replacement, were considered. Halls Creek Bridge's sufficiency rating of 51.7 was high enough to deem rehabilitative measures appropriate, but the same did not apply to the Cisna Creek Bridge with a rating of 34.8. Along with this, rehabilitative measures are only temporary fixes that would only postpone the need for future reconstruction.

Reconstruction of both bridges is the preferred design alternative. This alternative would best meet the project needs as well as provide the safest travel on WIS 95 long term.

## **Project Information**

Reconstruction of structures B-27-0234 over Halls Creek and B-27-0808 over Cisna Creek is proposed. The proposed projects would include the following:

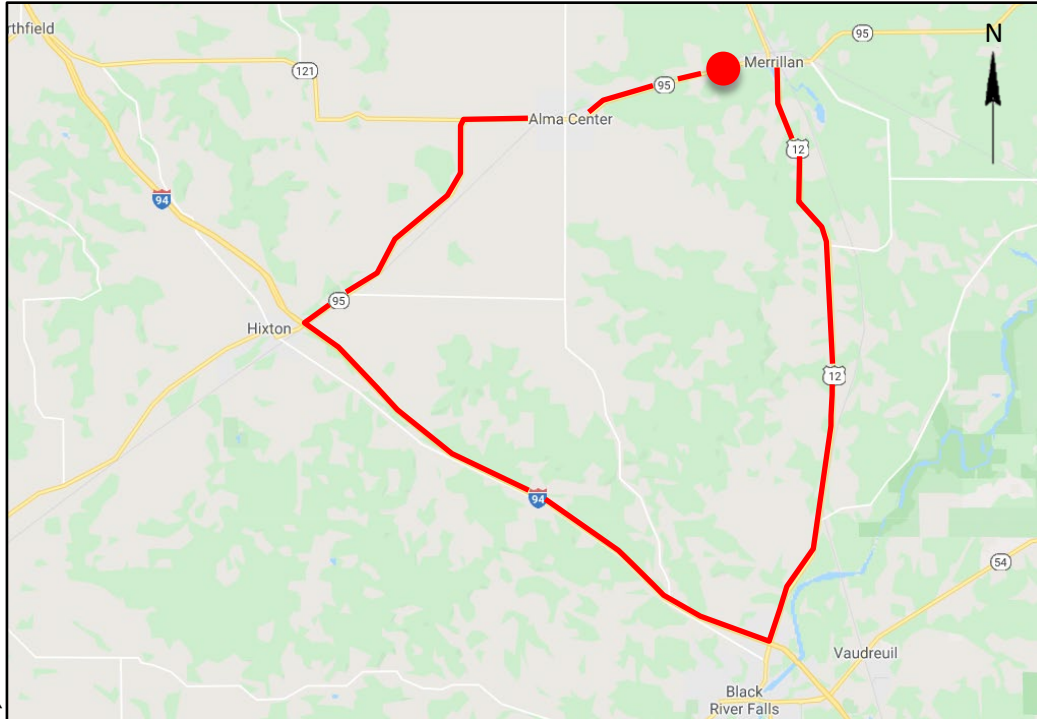
- Removal of the existing roadway, guardrail and bridges
- Construction of new concrete bridges
- Changing the slope of the road to improve drainage across the bridges
- Construction of new roadway – base, pavement and shoulders
- Installation of new guardrail
- Seed, fertilizer and e-mat placed on slopes

The project is currently 60% through the design phase, coordination with the DNR has been initiated, environmental commitments have been documented, and a traffic management plan has been developed.

The environmental commitments required for these projects include:

- Compensating for unavoidable impacts to wetlands at an offsite location
- Taking precautions to prevent harm to the streams' ecosystems and threatened and/or endangered species in the area
- Implementing and following an erosion control plan
- Taking precautions to prevent the spread of invasive species
- Involving local officials, residents and the nearby community on project and detour plans

The traffic management plan proposed for these projects is to detour WIS 95 using US 12WIS 27 and I-94. A detour was proposed, so construction time could be shortened, a safer work environment could be provided, and construction costs could be lowered costs. The proposed detour is shown in Figure 2 below.



*Figure 2: Detour Map*

### **Proposed Traffic Impacts**

Construction is scheduled to begin the summer of 2023.

During construction, bridges over Cisna and Halls creeks will be out, and WIS 95 between Alma Center and Merrilan will be closed at the bridge locations. The detour in Figure 2 will be used, and trucks and interstate traffic will benefit from following this signed detour. For local traffic, county and local roads are available to route around the closure, but these routes will not be signed by WisDOT. Residents living along WIS 95 between the two bridges will be directed to use Railroad Road to get to the open corridor of WIS 95 west of construction.

### **Project Update/Next Steps**

The current schedule for both projects is:

- July 28, 2020: Local officials' meeting
- August 2020: Public involvement
- November 2021: Structure plans complete
- February 2022: 90% plans
- August 2022: Plans, specifications and estimates submittal
- January 2023: Let date
- Summer 2023: Construction

### **Input/Comments**

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.

If you have any questions, comments or other input after reviewing project information please send them in any of these three formats:

- Email or call the project manager, Jessica Bowker (contact below)
- Print, fill out and mail the comment form on the website

**Contact:**

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