

USH 151
Beaver Dam – Fond Du Lac
STH 49 Interchange
Dodge & Fond Du Lac County

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS
Project ID: 1112-06-04/74

In May of 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation sent out project notification letters, a project fact sheet and mail-in comment form as a Virtual Public Involvement process due to public health restrictions on having an in-person meeting with the public. The comments below are paraphrased from the original, to show the information that would have been responded to at an in-person meeting; had one occurred.

[Comment #1: When attempting to make a right-turn from the southbound ramp, off of US 151 onto HWY 49, I have to turn my whole body to look east to see if there is traffic on HWY 49.](#)

Response #1: The angle of the right turn lane coming off of the US151 southbound off-ramp compared to HWY 49 is larger than our desirable standards. You are not wrong in feeling that it would be easier for the driver to make this turn if the angle of this intersection was reduced. This project however, will not be addressing the angle of intersection or making any changes to the angle. This is due to the scope of the project being classified as a rehabilitation type improvement and deficiencies such as the angle of intersection are not addressed under rehabilitation unless they are observed and documented safety issues. Upon reviewing the traffic data in this area, a safety issue was not identified.

[Comment #2: The proposed project limits of US 151 are currently bordered on both sides by concrete pavement. Since the current project plan is utilizing traffic crossovers to build each side without traffic, now would be a perfect time to redo the pavement with new concrete like the rest of US 151. This effort would remove the need to come back and do another mill & overlay in 5-7 years that would inconvenience and cause delays to businesses. I would like the WisDOT to consider extending the sidewalk and/or bike lane from Gateway Dr. through the interchange area to provide safer access to the Wild Goose trail system for bikers/pedestrians.](#)

Response #2: This project area was originally evaluated through WisDOTs asset management program as a possible full interchange reconstruction due to the current pavement reaching the end of it's designed lifespan. The two bridges carrying US 151 traffic were found to be in good structural condition and have an estimated 10-20 years left on their design lifespan. The asset management process determined that the cost-effective treatment is instead, to preserve the pavement until the end of the lifespan of the bridges to when both can be reconstructed at the same time. When the two bridges are reconstructed, they will need to be raised to increase their clearance above WIS 49 as they don't meet desirable clearance heights currently. While WisDOT could construct new concrete pavement leading up to the bridges with the current project, the taller and wider bridges would require changes to the alignment and vertical profile of US 151. So concrete pavement paved with the current project would mostly be removed

when the bridges get rebuilt to the new heights in 10-20 years. Taxpayers would be paying for a 60-year concrete pavement and only getting 10-20 years of use from that concrete pavement. The Department has long term plans to provide bike/pedestrian connections to the Wild Goose trail from Waupun, but the limiting factor is the clear span width of the bridges carrying US 151. Adding sidewalk to one or both sides will end up filling in the existing drainage ditches. When the new bridges are constructed, there would be availability to expand the clear span width to allow room for sidewalk or a wider multi-use path as well as possible turn lanes for the interchange ramps.

[Comment #3: Is there any way HWY 49 work could be completed sooner than 2022? If not, the 2-inches of milling and overlay may not be enough to fix this stretch of roadway. The state of the current roadway is bad enough that the heavy trucks rumbling over the pavement cause our houses to vibrate.](#)

Response #3: Work on HWY 49 is not going to be completed sooner as it is tied to the work with the interchange to combine two smaller pieces of roadwork into one project to hopefully gain some savings in contract costs and traffic control. The 2-inch mill and overlay is going to be a short term fix and planned to be addressed again when the interchange is reconstructed.

[Comment #4: We have a seasonal business and are concerned about the effect of construction and if it can be done before our business season starts?](#)

Response #4: This project is to be let out for bids in August 2021 with construction happening in 2022. The anticipated construction timeframe for all work is estimated at 3 months, with some room for the contractor to accelerate the schedule. There is a restriction that the contractor can't work on the culvert on HWY 49 until after June 15th, but that leaves ample time to finish paving before the fall. Residents along HWY 49 will be affected by temporary driveway closures during the milling and paving operations and HWY 49 traffic will be handled by flagging operations. The construction project manager will coordinate driveway closures with the owner prior to those temporary closures.

[Comment #5: Please consider lowering the speed limit between the bridge and the City limits from 55 mph to 45 mph due to the number of residences and businesses along this stretch. Also, can something be done to improve the flow of water through the ditches?](#)

Response #5: The request for a speed limit change has been passed along to the WisDOT traffic safety engineer for analysis. Ditches will not be addressed with this project as it would likely require real estate agreements from every property owner along this project as well as dealing with the relatively flat terrain in the area that makes it difficult to get water to flow in any rapid fashion. This would be a much larger effort and cost to design for not much gain in flow of water. However if there are specific spots where the ditches are being blocked, do feel free to contact WisDOT Maintenance or Dodge County Highway and the blockage may be able to be taken care of through maintenance procedures.