

# Public Involvement

**WIS 161  
WIS 49 Southbound to WIS 110  
Waupaca County  
Project ID: 6260-00-02**



**March 13, 2024 to April 13, 2024**

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled persons should contact the Wisconsin Relay Service for assistance by dialing 711.

## **Purpose**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is in the process of developing plans for proposed improvements along WIS 161 in Waupaca County. The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the proposed improvements, address impacts to traffic during construction and offer an opportunity for public comment. We appreciate your input and encourage you to review the project information and provide comments.

## **Project Information**

We are proposing to improve 10.3 miles of WIS 161 between WIS 49 Southbound and WIS 110, in the village of Iola and the towns of Iola, Helvetia and Union.

Improvements are needed to address the existing pavement condition on WIS 161 which is showing signs of distress, primarily in the form of alligator, longitudinal and transverse cracking with rutting. Also, several culverts and sections of curb and gutter are deteriorating and in need of repair or replacement. The existing guardrail and pedestrian curb ramps also need to be upgraded to meet current design standards and improve safety.

The purpose of this project is to address the existing roadway deficiencies and ensure the preservation of the roadway.

Proposed improvements include:

- Resurfacing WIS 161 by milling and overlaying the asphalt pavement.
- Replacing eight existing cross culvert pipes and removing one cattle pass.
- Upgrading guardrail to meet current design standards.
- Reconstructing pedestrian curb ramps within the village of Iola to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- Replacing sections of curb and gutter within the village of Iola.

An environmental document is being prepared to address potential impacts to environmental resources along the project corridor.

## **Proposed traffic impacts**

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2027.

WIS 161 will remain open to traffic using temporary lane closures with flagging operations for the majority of construction.

A short-term detour is anticipated during culvert pipe replacement and cattle pass removal. The proposed detour route will utilize US 10 from the WIS 161/US 10 intersection to WIS 22 at the intersection of US10/WIS 22 and rejoin WIS 161 at the intersection of WIS 22/110/161.

Local access to businesses and residences will be maintained during construction. Brief interruptions in access may occur temporarily at driveways. The contractor will be required to notify homeowners and businesses prior to construction. Temporary pedestrian curb ramps will be installed to maintain pedestrian access to the sidewalk during construction.

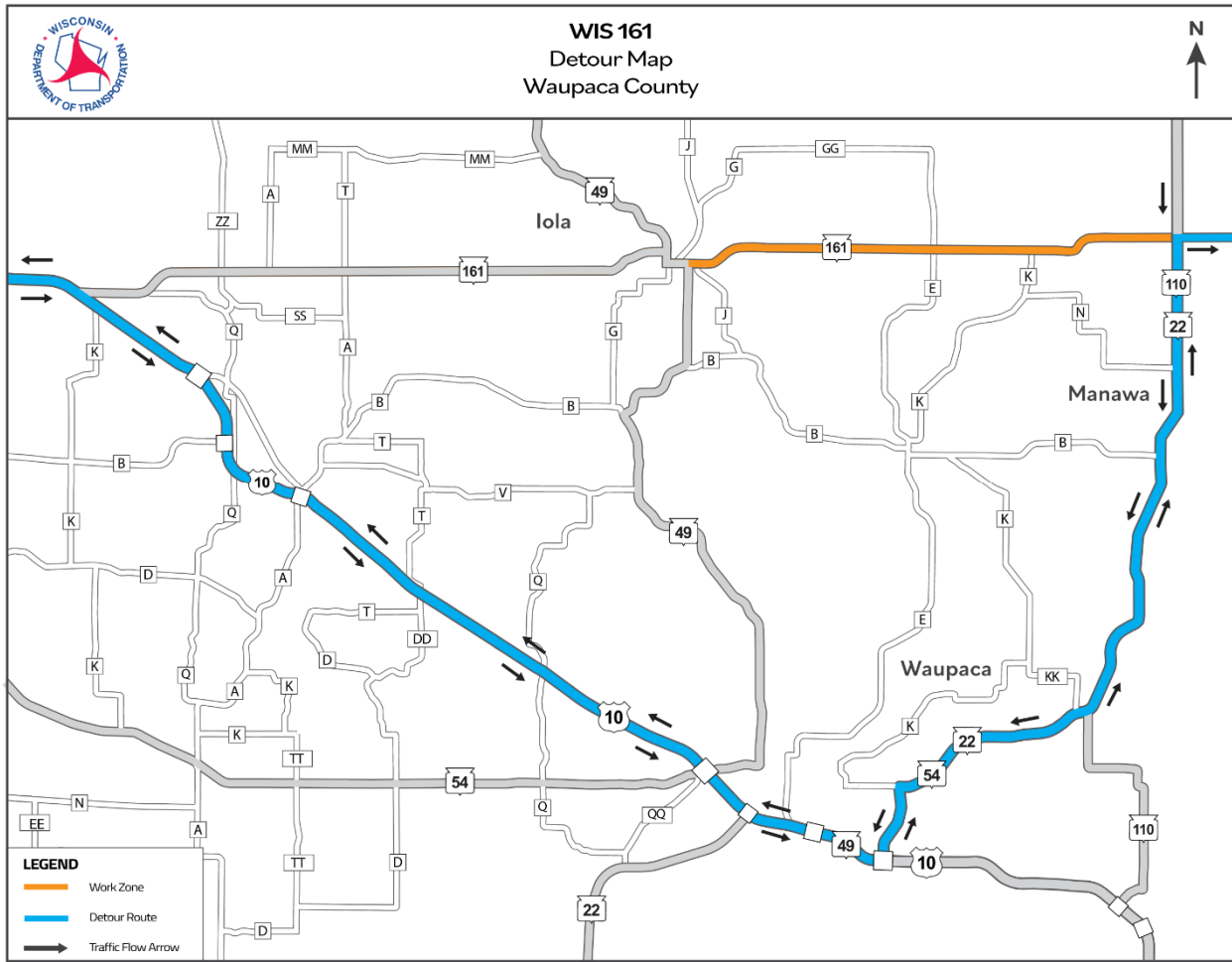


Figure 1: Short-term detour route for cross culvert pipe replacements and cattle pass removal.

## Real estate

Minor areas of temporary easements will be required to accommodate the curb ramp upgrades, guardrail replacement and associated grading work. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in February of 2025.

## Project update/next steps

Local officials meeting	February 14, 2024
Public involvement	March 2024 – April 2024
Preliminary plans	July 2024
Environmental document	October 2024
Local officials meeting	Spring/Summer 2025
Public involvement	Spring/Summer 2025
Final right of way plat	February 2025
Real estate negotiations	February 2025 – August 2026
Final plans	August 2026
Construction currently scheduled	2027

## Public 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.

There are several ways to submit your input by **April 13, 2024**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. Complete the fillable online survey on the project website  
<https://wisconsin.dot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis161waupaca/default.aspx>
3. Email comments or questions to the contact listed below

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For more information, please contact:

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Attn: Wendy Arneson, P.E.  
WisDOT North Central Region – Wisconsin Rapids  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

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