

Public Involvement

WIS 77
Upton Lake Road to Odanah Road
Iron County
Project ID: 9250-14-71



August 21, 2023 to September 17, 2023

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

Purpose

The objective of this outreach is to inform the public of the proposed improvements on WIS 77, and to gather their input on the needs and proposed improvements as well as communicate any traffic impacts associated with the improvements to the public.

Project Information

The purpose of this project is to prolong the service life of the existing pavement structure of WIS 77 in Iron County. We are proposing to improve 11.4 miles of WIS 77 which extends from Upson Lake Road to Odanah Road between Mellen and Hurley. WIS 77 is located in the towns and cities of Upson, Iron Belt, Pence, Montreal, Gile and Hurley.

Need

The project needs which support the project purpose include the following components:

- Pavement distresses in the form of longitudinal cracking, transverse cracking, and rutting
- Inadequate guardrail height
- Deteriorated culverts and areas of poor drainage
- Substandard curb ramps that do not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Deteriorated curb and gutter and inlets
- Deteriorated storm sewer

Proposed improvements include:

- Mill and overlay
- Curb ramp replacement
- Inlet and curb and gutter repairs
- Storm sewer replacement
- Guardrail height adjustments
- Culvert replacement
- Drainage improvements
- New pavement markings and centerline rumble strips

The DNR has been contacted regarding the project and the environmental process is underway. Historical and archaeological surveys have been completed and there are no anticipated impacts.

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in Spring/Summer 2026.

During construction, WIS 77 – between Upson Lake Road and Odanah Road will be open to through traffic using flagging operations. Milling and paving will take place one lane at a time. A moving flagging operation will be used during paving operations, as traffic will be limited to one lane within the moving work zone. The work zone will be held to a maximum of 1.5 miles. Additional flaggers will be provided at intersecting roadways when the work zone encompasses an intersection or multiple intersections. Culvert pipe replacements, storm sewer replacement, and ditching will be constructed using lane closures with flagging. Curb ramp replacements will be constructed using shoulder closures, lane shifts, sideroad closures, and pedestrian accommodations and detour routes.

Temporary driveway closures may be necessary during parts of the construction process. WisDOT will contact homeowners and businesses in advance before closing a driveway.

Construction is currently scheduled for completion by Fall 2026.

Real estate

Additional right of way will be required for this project. Curb ramp replacements will require right of way acquisition to meet ADA compliance at multiple locations along the project. Ditching and culvert replacement areas east of Iron Belt will impact approximately 0.2 acres of right of way to improve existing drainage. Preliminary right of way impacts are shown on the exhibits. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in (April, 2024).

Project update/next steps

Preliminary plans	April 2023
Local officials meeting	July 2023
Public Involvement	Aug. 21 – Sept. 17, 2023
Environmental document	September 2023
Final right of way plat	February 2024
Real estate negotiations	Spring 2024 – Fall 2025
Final plans	November 2025
Construction currently scheduled	Spring/Summer 2026

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 **Sept. 17, 2023**:

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://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis77iron/default.aspx>
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/default.aspx>
3. Email comments or questions to the contact(s) listed below

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For more information, please contact:

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Attn: Andrew Casper, P.E.
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