

# Public Involvement

**Ladysmith – Hawkins  
River Avenue to Prentice Street  
US 8, Rusk County**

ID 1580-04-02/72



**Nov. 16, 2020**

**An in-person public involvement meeting has moved online as a precaution against COVID-19 based on the most current health information from state, federal and local health departments.**

**The Wisconsin Department of Transportation continues to review prioritization and potential alternatives for public meetings and events.**

**This handout and other items are available on the design website at:**

**<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/US8rusk/default.aspx>**

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

## **Purpose**

The objective is to obtain your input on the identified needs and proposed improvements along US 8 between River Avenue in the city of Ladysmith and Prentice Street in the village of Glen Flora. The project also is located in the village of Tony and towns of Flambeau, Dewey and True in Rusk County.

## **Purpose and need for roadway improvements**

The primary project purpose is improving the condition of the pavement on US 8 to provide motorists with a highway that both meets safety standards and provides a high level of service.

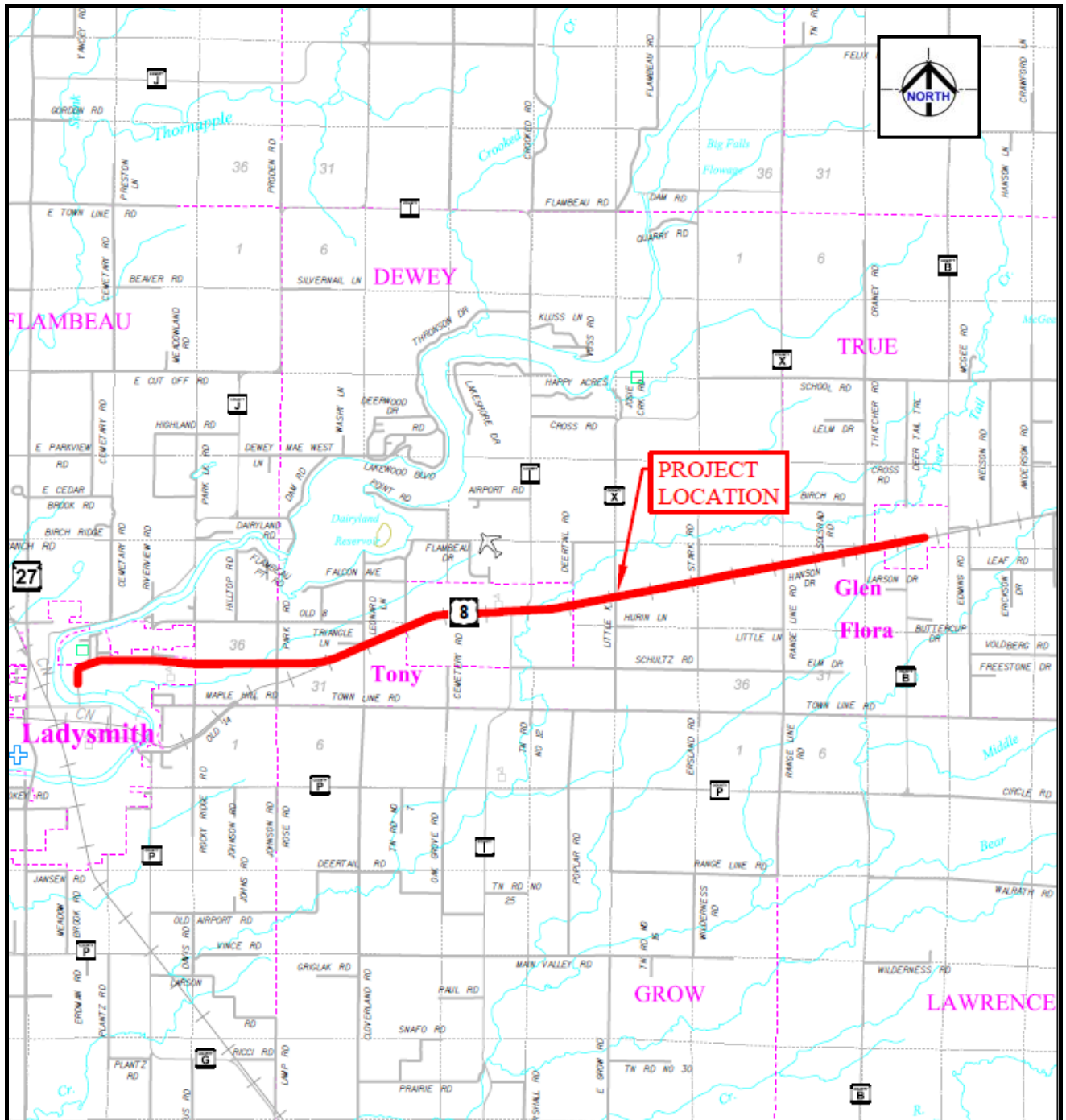
The project need is defined by the improvements that must be made to the highway to address its deteriorated condition. In its current state, existing asphaltic pavement on US 8 is exhibiting signs of deterioration in the form of cracking and rutting.

Additional needs include the following:

- The curb ramps in the city of Ladysmith and village of Tony do not meet ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) standards.
- There is discontinuity in the sidewalk system in the village of Tony between Linden Street and Walnut Street.
- Existing curbs and gutters are deteriorated at spot locations throughout the project.
- Guardrails are deteriorated.
- From 2013 to 2017, there were a total of 49 total crashes in the project limits with 11 crashes resulting in more severe injuries. Vehicles ran off the road in 17 of the crashes with 6 of the crashes resulting in more severe injuries.
- While no train crashes have occurred, the volume of traffic on County B warrants review of railroad crossing safety measures. There are no existing railroad signals or gates at the County B railroad crossing, which is adjacent to the US 8 project.

To address the project needs, a proposed solution must attempt to correct these key issues.

If no action is taken, the pavement structure life will be significantly reduced, and the ride quality will continue to worsen. The pavement was last reconstructed/reconditioned in 2007.



## Recommended improvements

- Asphalt mill and overlay approximately 11 miles of US 8.
- Reconstruction of curb ramps to meet ADA standards, where feasible, in the city of Ladysmith and village of Tony.
- Sidewalk construction between Linden and Walnut streets in the village of Tony.
- Replacement of deteriorated curb and gutter at spot locations.
- Replacement of guardrails.

- New pavement marking will be installed, and centerline rumble strips will be placed in rural areas to maintain safe operating conditions along US 8.
- The project will also include shoulder paving with shoulder rumble strips in rural areas to minimize run off the road crashes.
- The project will also evaluate installation of railroad signals and gates at the County B railroad crossing.

This alternative ensures that the life of the pavement structure and the roadway features are maximized in the most cost-effective manner. The recommended improvements are subject to approval of the final environmental document.

### ***Other projects***

The construction of the subject US 8 project will be coordinated with the adjacent pavement rehabilitation project ID 1580-04-73 on US 8 between Prentice Street and the Rusk/Price county line.

WisDOT is also planning for a culvert improvement project along US 8 in 2023 under a separate project between Ladysmith and the east county line.

Separate coordination is ongoing for these projects.

## **Real estate**

Additional right of way will be required for this project. This will include small areas of permanent (fee) and temporary (temporary limited easement) land acquisitions at some of the curb ramp locations in the city of Ladysmith and village of Tony and at the County B railroad crossing. Estimated right of way impacts are shown on the exhibits posted on the project website.

A landowner rights pamphlet is available on the project website. Real estate acquisition is expected to begin in summer 2021. Direct mailings and coordination will occur with impacted property owners.

### ***Ladysmith Memorial Park***

In order to improve the curb ramps in the city of Ladysmith, right of way and easements will be needed from the city's Memorial Park. Coordination is ongoing with the city and acquisition of right of way from parklands is subject to agency review and approval of the environmental document. Please offer any specific comments you may have related to the potential use of parklands along with your other project comments.

## **Proposed traffic impacts**

The improvement projects are currently scheduled for 2024. Motorists can expect to encounter daily flagging operations and single-lane closures during construction. Parking will be restricted during work directly in those areas in the city of Ladysmith. Curb ramp replacements will be staged to maintain access to pedestrians.

Access to adjacent properties 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.

## Project update/next steps

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Local official's meeting | June 2020                  |
| • Concept plans            | September 2020             |
| • Public involvement       | November/December 2020     |
| • Preliminary plans        | Spring 2021                |
| • Environmental document   | Spring 2021                |
| • Final right of way plat  | Summer 2021                |
| • Real estate negotiations | Summer 2021 to spring 2023 |
| • Final plans              | May 2023                   |
| • Construction             | 2024                       |

## Project design website

Access the following materials on the project design website:

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/US8rusk/default.aspx>

- Project background
- This handout and comment form
- Project presentation
- Project exhibits showing the proposed improvements

## Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Please forward your comments/input by **Dec. 18, 2020**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this document
2. Or email comments or questions to the contacts listed below

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. For more information, please contact:

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# Public Involvement Comment Form

ID 1580-04-02/72  
Ladysmith – Hawkins  
River Avenue to Prentice Street  
US 8, Rusk County

Nov. 16, 2020

Please place this form in the comment box or mail by **Dec. 18, 2020** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to [JSaxby@sehinc.com](mailto:JSaxby@sehinc.com). 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)

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*The information in this document including names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and signatures is not confidential, and may be subject to disclosure upon request, pursuant to the requirements of the Wisconsin open records law, sections 19.31 - 19.39 of the Wisconsin statutes.*

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Northwest Region – Superior Office  
1701 N. Fourth St.  
Superior, WI 54880  
Attn: Jeff Olson

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To mail, fold here and tape.