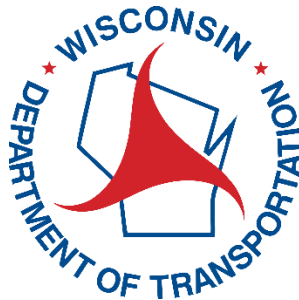


Public Involvement Meeting Handout

Dodgeville to Mount Horeb US 18/151 and County YZ Intersection Iowa County

Design ID: 1204-00-06
Construction ID: 1204-00-76



**February 1, 2024
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Dodgeville City Hall**

Purpose of the Meeting

Welcome to the public involvement meeting for the intersection of US 18/151 and County Y/YZ.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is planning improvements to the US 18/151 and County Y/YZ intersection to maintain the operation efficiency of the highway and improve safety for the traveling public.

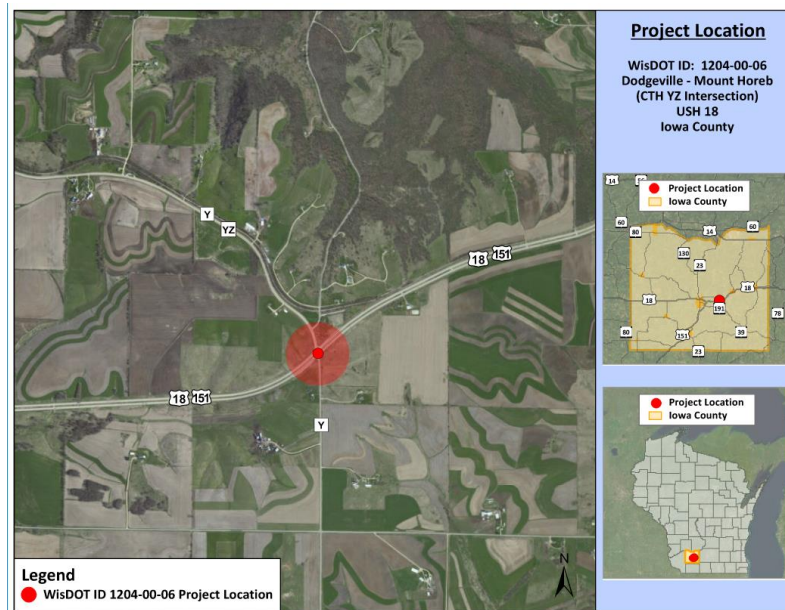
Our objectives for today's meeting are to:

- Provide you with background information about the safety issues with the existing intersection.
- Provide the results of the Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) and the preferred intersection alternative.
- Obtain your input on the preferred alternative to address the safety issues at the existing intersection.

The meeting will run from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A presentation is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. The remainder of the meeting will follow an open-house format with displays of the preferred alternative available for viewing.

Project Information

The intersection of US 18/151 County Y/YZ is located outside the City of Dodgeville in Iowa County.



General Background

US 18/151 is a rural four-lane expressway with a posted speed limit of 65 mph and an average annual daily traffic (AADT) of 15,800 vehicles. County Y/YZ is a two-lane county highway with a speed limit of 55 mph and an AADT of less than 900 vehicles. County YZ north of US 18/151 provides a northern access to the City of Dodgeville. County Y south of US 18/151 provides access to rural Iowa County. Stop signs are in place on both legs of County Y/YZ at the intersection.

Upcoming US 18/151 Study

The Transportation Projects Commission (TPC) reviews major highway project candidates and makes recommendations to the governor and legislature regarding projects. At the December 2023 TPC meeting, US 18/151 from Dodgeville to Madison was approved for study. The portion from Dodgeville to Verona will be considered for freeway conversion. It is important to remember that no approval was given for any construction at this time.

Crash History

The US 18/151 and County YZ intersection has been identified as having a trend of angle crashes due to County YZ vehicles failing to yield to US 18/151 traffic. During a five-year period from 2017 through 2021, 25 total crashes occurred at this intersection. Of those 25, seventeen were angle crashes, or those involving at least one vehicle traveling along the major road and one traveling along the minor road.

Angle crashes accounted for seven out of the eight (88%) injury crashes and one fatal crash that happened at the intersection during the study period. The project team is aware of the recent crash and fatality during the fall of 2023.

Funding Source

In 2021 WisDOT applied for, and was granted, improvement funds for the intersection through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). HSIP funds highway safety projects at sites that have experienced a high crash history. The overall objective of HSIP is to develop and implement stand-alone safety projects designed to reduce the number and severity of crashes on all streets and highways (State and local).

Interim Safety Improvements

Interim safety improvements were implemented in the fall of 2023 to help motorists navigate the existing intersection safely. The improvements included the following:

- Existing sign heights were raised near the intersection to avoid potential sight obstructions.
- Existing signs near the intersection were enlarged to promote intersection awareness.
- Signs with beacons along US 18/151 were installed to alert motorists of the intersection ahead.

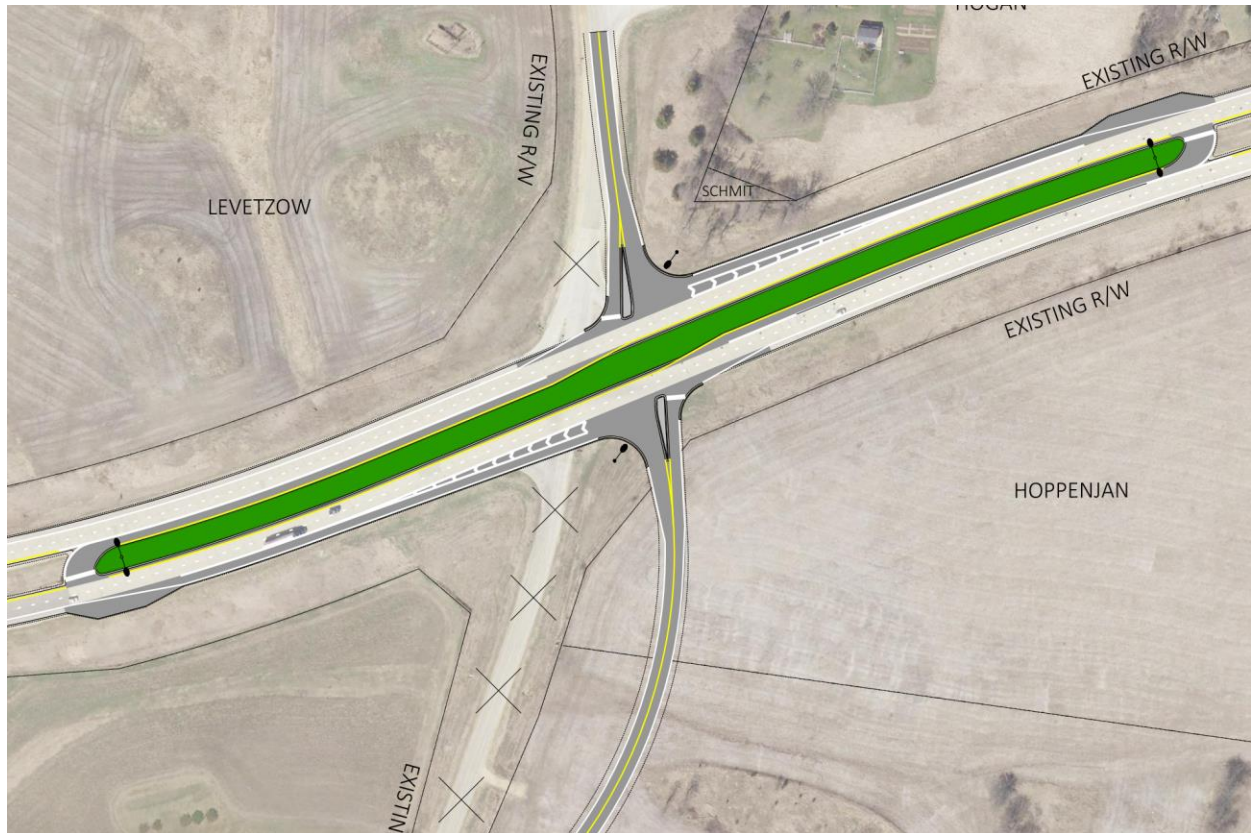


Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Results and Preferred Alternative

During the ICE process 6 alternatives were evaluated based on several factors including safety, traffic delay, impacts to property/environment, and cost:

- Alternative 1, No Build
- Alternative 2, Minor Road Stop Control with Offset Turn Lanes
- Alternative 3, Right-In/Right Out/Left-In (no U-Turn)
- Alternative 4, Right-In/Right Out (no U-turn)
- Alternative 5, Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT): Closed Median
- Alternative 6, Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT): Left-In

The approved and preferred alternative from the evaluation was Alternative 5. A Restricted Crossing U-turn (RCUT) intersection is a type of reduced conflict intersection used primarily on four-lane divided highways. RCUT intersections differ from conventional intersections by re-routing left-turn and through vehicles from the side road. Motorists approaching the divided highway from the side road are required to turn right and then make a U-turn at a designated median opening. This alternative also includes the construction of offset right-turn lanes on US 18/151. This alternative includes 18 total conflict points compared to the existing 42.



Preferred Alternative 5A (Aligned County Y/YZ)



Preferred Alternative 5B (Offset County Y/YZ)

Prior RCUT installations

RCUT intersections can dramatically improve safety compared to traditional intersections. Studies in Wisconsin and throughout the US have shown decreases in crashes that involve injuries and fatalities from 30% up to 90% reduction compared to conditions before the RCUT's were constructed. Locations in Wisconsin have shown reductions in total crashes up to 80%. In addition to significant crash reductions, driver delay can be reduced by nearly half with RCUT intersections.

Learn more about RCUTS at:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/safety-eng/rcut.aspx>

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2027. During construction, US 18/151 is expected to remain open and be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction with staged construction. County Y/YZ is expected to be closed to traffic.

Real estate

Additional right-of-way will be required for this project. Property acquisition will be needed to re-align County Y/YZ. County Y/YZ re-alignment impacts are shown on the exhibits. Real estate acquisition is expected to occur between fall of 2024 and summer of 2026.

Project update/next steps

- Public Meeting No. 2 – February 1, 2024
- Environmental Document – Summer 2024
- Public Meeting No. 3 – Fall of 2024
- Final Plans – August 2026
- Construction – 2027

Project Website

Please reference [WisconsinDOT.gov](https://wisconsinDOT.gov) for additional information and updates regarding the project:

<https://wisconsinDOT.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/us18-countyyz/default.aspx>



Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Attached to this handout is a sheet for your written comments and input regarding the proposed project. Please mail any written comments about the project before **March 4, 2024**, or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also e-mail your comments 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 Meeting Comment Form

Project ID 1204-00-06/76
Dodgeville to Mount Horeb
US 18/151, County YZ Intersection
Iowa County

February 1, 2024

Please place this form in the comment box or mail by **March 4, 2024**, to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be e-mailed to derek.potter@dot.wi.gov. 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: _____

Daytime Phone Number (optional): _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)

The information in this document including names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail 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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[Stamp or Pre-paid Postage]

Wisconsin Department of Transportation – Southwest Region

2101 Wright Street

Madison, WI 53704

Attn: Derek Potter

Fold here and staple to mail