

# Public Involvement Meeting

**Chippewa Falls - New Auburn  
County B to WIS 64  
US 53  
Chippewa County**

ID 1191-05-06 (76)



**September 2020**

**Rather than holding an in-person meeting, public involvement efforts have 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 meeting items are available on the design website at:**

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53chipco/default.aspx>

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

## Purpose of the meeting

The objective of today's meeting is to obtain your input on the identified needs and proposed improvements along US 53 between County B and WIS 64 in the towns of Tilden, Woodmohr and Bloomer in Chippewa County.

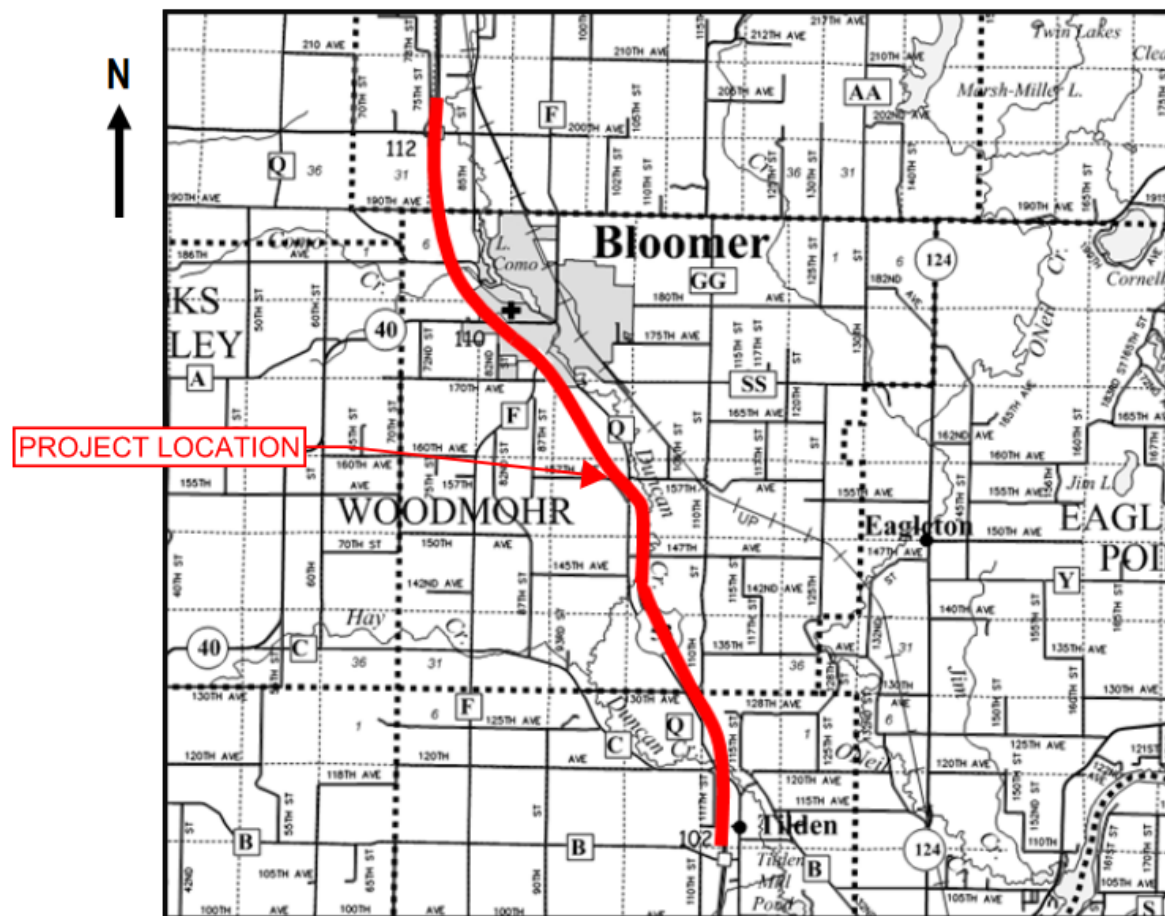
## Purpose and need for roadway improvements

The primary project purpose is improving the condition of the pavement on US 53 to provide motorists with a highway that both meets safety standards and provides a high level of service.

The project need is needed to address US 53's deteriorated condition. In its current state, the existing pavement on US 53 and at the WIS 40 and WIS 64 interchanges is exhibiting signs of deterioration in the form of cracking and rutting. Also, the County B, County Q and WIS 40 bridges over US 53 are deteriorating. To meet the project need, 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 original US 53 pavement was placed in the 1970s and last resurfaced in the mid-2000s. The pavement is nearing the end of its service life.

## Project location



## Recommended improvements

- Rehabilitation of the pavement is no longer cost effective and pavement replacement is warranted to ensure safe maintenance of traffic on this high priority route.
- The existing pavement will be removed and replaced with new concrete pavement and a new aggregate drainage layer on US 53 and the WIS 40 and WIS 64 interchange ramps. The pavement also will be replaced along WIS 40 and WIS 64 between the ramps.
  - The existing roadway alignment and number of travel lanes will be maintained.
  - No intersection or interchange modifications are warranted by current safety conditions and existing intersection configurations are proposed to be maintained.
- Repairs to US 53 overpass bridges on County B, County Q (near 157<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and WIS 40.
- Drainage culvert replacements will be completed.
- Guardrails will be replaced throughout the project.
- Pavement marking and shoulder rumble strips will be replaced.
- Right-of-way fencing will be removed and replaced.
- The recommended improvements are subject to approval of the final environmental document.

## Real estate

Work is anticipated to occur within the existing right of way.

New right-of-way fence will be placed inside the existing right of way (typically 3-feet). If the fencing helps to contain livestock, please contact WisDOT so that we can coordinate with you during replacement of the fence.

## Proposed traffic impacts

Construction of US 53 is proposed to start in spring 2025 and extend through fall 2026 to accommodate staged construction and minimize traffic delays along US 53. Construction on temporary median crossovers may begin in fall 2024.

During construction, motorists can expect to encounter single-lane closures and bidirectional traffic conditions on each side of US 53. Speeds will be reduced to 60 miles per hour.

Construction of temporary crossovers is proposed to manage traffic movements between north- and southbound US 53 during construction. Temporary crossovers also will be constructed to provide access at the interchanges.

### ***Interchanges***

During construction of the interchange ramps at WIS 40 and WIS 64, ramps will be closed for designated periods to allow for pavement replacement.

- Full interchange closures will not be allowed.
- Ramp closures will not occur at consecutive interchanges at the same time.

Along the crossroad through each interchange, traffic will be managed as follows:

- County B: During bridge deck repair work, through traffic (east-west) will always be maintained along County B with a single lane and temporary traffic signals.
- WIS 40: Through traffic (east-west) will always be maintained with single-lane closures and bidirectional traffic conditions on WIS 40.
- WIS 64: Through traffic (east-west) will always be maintained along WIS 64 with a single lane and temporary traffic signals.

### **Construction schedule**

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Work Location</b>	<b>Traffic Conditions</b>
Spring 2025*	Temporary crossovers along US 53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single lane closures on US 53</li> <li>• All interchanges open</li> </ul>
Spring 2025	NB US 53 from County B to 147th Ave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from County B to County F</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County F</li> </ul>
Early summer 2025	NB US 53 from 147th Ave. to County F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from County B to County F</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County F</li> </ul>
Late summer 2025	SB US 53 from County F to 147th Ave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from County B to County F</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County F</li> </ul>
Fall 2025	SB US 53 from 147th Ave. to County B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from County B to County F</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County F</li> </ul>
Winter Shutdown	No work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All lanes and all interchanges open</li> </ul>
Spring 2026	NB US 53 from County F to Lake Como WIS 40 NB Ramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from County F to WIS 64</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County F</li> <li>• <b>WIS 40 NB ramps closed (late spring for approx. 3 weeks)</b></li> </ul>
Early - mid-summer 2026	NB US 53 from Lake Como to WIS 64 WIS 64 NB Ramps WIS 40 WIS 64 County B bridge work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from County F to WIS 64</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County F</li> <li>• <b>WIS 64 NB ramps closed (late spring for approx. 3 weeks)</b></li> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on WIS 40 from Woodard Road to 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.</li> <li>• Single lane traffic on WIS 64 from 80th St. to east of NB ramps with temporary traffic signals</li> <li>• Single lane traffic on County B between ramps with temporary traffic signals</li> </ul>
Mid - late-summer 2026	SB US 53 from WIS 64 to Lake Como WIS 64 SB Ramps WIS 40 WIS 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from County F to WIS 64</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County F</li> <li>• <b>WIS 64 SB ramps closed (mid summer for approx. 3 weeks)</b></li> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on WIS 40 from Woodard Road to 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.</li> <li>• Single-lane traffic on WIS 64 from 80th St. to east of NB ramps with temporary traffic signals</li> </ul>
Fall 2026	SB US 53 from Lake Como to County F WIS 40 SB Ramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from County F to WIS 64</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County F</li> <li>• <b>WIS 40 SB ramps closed (early fall for approx. 3 weeks)</b></li> </ul>
Late fall 2026	US 53 median removals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-lane closures on US 53</li> <li>• All interchanges open</li> </ul>

#### Notes:

- Bolded text indicates a short-term ramp closure.
- Current ramp closure periods shown above are preliminary and may be adjusted in final design.
- US 53 lanes and ramps are currently anticipated to be open for holiday weekends.
- Spring = Before Memorial Day
- Summer = Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Fall = After Labor Day
- SB = Southbound; NB = Northbound
- \* Potential for this work to take place in fall 2024

## Project update/next steps

- Concept plans April 2020
- Public involvement September 2020
- Environmental document Fall/winter 2020
- Preliminary plans February 2021
- Final plans August 2023
- Construction Spring 2025 to fall 2026

## Project design website

Access the following materials on the project design website:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53chipco/default.aspx>

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

## Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Please forward your comments/input by **Oct. 5, 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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718 W. Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Attn: Jesse Larson, P.E.

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