

This presentation is for the project on US 53 between 40th Avenue and County B in the city of Chippewa Falls, village of Lake Hallie and towns of Wheaton and Tilden in Chippewa County.

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.

All meeting materials, including the handout with a comment form, are posted on the design website for this project.

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53chippewa/default.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact WisDOT Project Manager Jesse Larson at (715) 491-1470.

# Public Involvement Meeting

**US 53**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Avenue to County B**

**July 20, 2020**



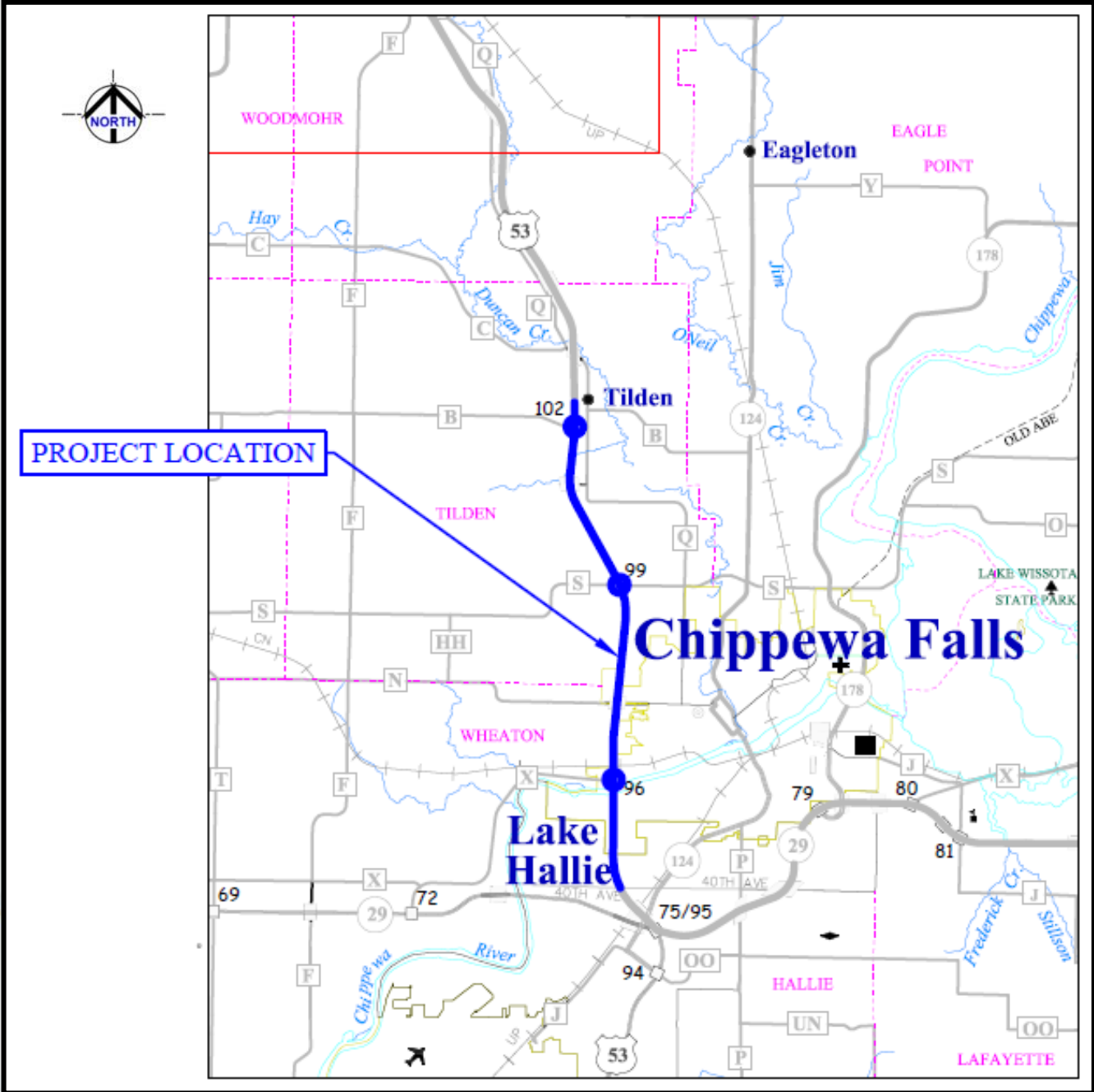
# Project team

- WisDOT Northwest Region
  - Jesse Larson, P.E. – Project Manager
- EMCS, Inc.
  - Stephanie Christensen, P.E. – Consultant Designer

# Meeting objectives

- Project location
- Project purpose and need
- Proposed improvements
- Construction staging and schedule
- Real estate
- Current project schedule
- Discussion

# Project location



# Purpose and need

- US 53 importance
  - Part of the National Highway System
  - Truck route including movement of oversized-overweight loads
  - Serves local commuters and businesses
  - Interstate link to Minnesota
- WisDOT's objective is to ensure the safe and efficient operations of the state's highway system while supporting local access

# Purpose and need

- Pavement deterioration
  - Original construction in mid-1970s
  - Asphaltic overlay in mid-2000s
  - Cracking and rutting due to poor underlying concrete
  - The pavement is nearing the end of its service life
- Bridge deterioration
  - US 53 over the Chippewa River and Bus 29/County X

# US 53 proposed improvements

- Pavement improvements are recommended to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently
- A pavement replacement alternative is proposed
  - Asphaltic pavement overlay is not a cost-effective solution for this high-traffic corridor
- Pavement replacement best addresses the project needs
  - Balances level of investment in the roadway system with the added pavement life achieved



# US 53 proposed improvements

- Place new concrete pavement
  - US 53
  - Interchange ramps at Bus 29/County X, County S and County B
  - County S and County B between ramps
- Pavement replacement
  - Replacement of the aggregate drainage layer
  - Maintain existing alignment and travel lanes
  - Maintain existing intersection configurations

# US 53 proposed improvements

- Repair bridges
  - Polymer overlays (anti-skid surface) to maintain bridge decks and reduce run-off-the-road crashes near the bridges over the Chippewa River and over Bus 29/County X
- Place snow fence plantings to reduce snow drifting across southbound US 53 at four locations
- Repair deteriorated culverts and erosion
- Replace guardrails
- Replace right-of-way fencing
- Replace marking and shoulder rumble strips

# Current construction schedule

- Construction is planned for spring 2022 to summer 2024
- Maintaining safety and mobility are high priorities
  - US 53 traffic can be maintained effectively with one lane in each direction before Memorial Day or after Labor Day
  - Construction will be staged to minimize delays along US 53 during peak travel periods
  - Interchange ramps will be closed for short periods
  - Consecutive interchanges will not be closed at the same time

# Proposed construction staging

- Temporary crossovers are proposed to facilitate movements between northbound and southbound US 53
  - South of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - North of County N
  - North of County B
- Temporary ramps are proposed to facilitate access at interchanges
  - Bus 29/County X southbound exit
  - County S (all ramps)
  - County B northbound exit ramp

# 2022 construction staging

Timeframe	Work Location	Traffic Conditions
Spring 2022	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>
Summer 2022	County S interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>County S ramps closed (approx. 4 weeks)</b></li> <li>• Staged two-way traffic on County S</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53</li> </ul>
Fall 2022	NB US 53 from County S to County B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from County S to County B</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County S</li> <li>• <b>NB entrance at County B closed (approx. 3 weeks)</b></li> </ul>
Winter Shutdown	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All lanes and all interchanges open</li> </ul>

## Notes for all schedules:

- **Bolded** text indicates a short-term detour or ramp closure
- Current ramp closure periods shown above are preliminary and may be adjusted in final design
- Ramps are currently anticipated to be open for holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day)
- Spring = Before Memorial Day
- Summer = Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Fall = After Labor Day
- SB = Southbound; NB = Northbound

# 2023 construction staging

Timeframe	Work Location	Traffic Conditions
Spring 2023	NB US 53 from 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to County S Bus 29/ County X interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on SB US 53 from 40th Ave. to County S</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County S</li> <li>• <b>Bus 29/County X ramps closed except SB exit ramp</b></li> <li>• Two-way traffic on Bus 29/County X</li> </ul>
Summer 2023	Bus 29/ County X interchange County B interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bus 29/County X ramps closed, open ramps by July 4</b></li> <li>• Two-way traffic open on Bus 29/County X</li> <li>• <b>County B ramps closed (late summer for approx. 4 weeks); SB entrance ramp remains closed into fall</b></li> <li>• Two-way traffic on County B, except during <b>short-term detour (approx. 2 weeks)</b></li> </ul>
Fall 2023	SB US 53 from County S to County B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from County S to County B</li> <li>• Normal traffic on US 53 south of County S</li> <li>• All interchanges open</li> </ul>
Winter Shutdown	No work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All lanes and all interchanges open</li> </ul>

# 2024 construction staging

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Work Location</b>	<b>Traffic Conditions</b>
Spring 2024	SB US 53 from 40th Ave. to County S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bidirectional traffic on NB US 53 from 40th Ave. to County S</li><li>• Normal traffic on US 53 north of County S</li><li>• All interchanges open</li></ul>
Summer 2024	US 53 median removals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Single-lane closures on US 53</li><li>• All interchanges open</li></ul>

# Real estate needs

- All work inside the existing right of way
- Right-of-way fencing will be replaced
  - If fencing holds livestock, please contact WisDOT as provided below
  - Coordination will occur with the property owner during construction



# Current project schedule

- Concept plans - November 2019
- Local officials meeting - July 2020
- Public involvement meeting - July 2020
- Preliminary plans - Summer 2020
- Environmental document - Summer 2020
- Final plans - August 2021
- Construction – Spring 2022 to Summer 2024

# Project design website

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53chippewa/default.aspx>

The screenshot shows the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website. The header includes the state logo and navigation links: DMV ONLINE SERVICES, DMV INFO, DOING BUSINESS, TRAVEL, PROJECTS AND STUDIES, and ABOUT WISDOT. A search bar is located below the navigation. The main content area is titled "Northwest Region Highway Projects and Studies" and includes a "COVID-19 Update" section. A map of the Northwest region is shown in the bottom right corner.

**STEP 1** → PROJECTS AND STUDIES

- Projects and studies by mode
- Data and planning resources
- Environmental information
- In This Together
- Life of a highway project
- Six Year Highway Program
- Statewide plans
- Solvency

## Northwest Region Highway Projects and Studies

### COVID-19 Update

#### Construction

WisDOT continues to monitor the public health crisis as it applies to essential highway maintenance and construction projects. Workers who support the construction of critical or strategic infrastructure are considered essential by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

- Wisconsin's Safer at Home Order (Executive Order 12, issued March 24, 2020) allows travel for workers engaged in the operation and upkeep of infrastructure. No special documentation or permits are required.
- Workers are expected to continue to take precautions against the spread of COVID-19 at the office and job site. Monitor the [Wisconsin Department of Health](#) for latest information and guidance.

With our partners in industry, we will strive to keep this construction season on schedule.

transportation projects are suspended temporarily and will be

**STEP 2** →

**Projects in Design (Construction scheduled)**

**STEP 3** →

**Chippewa County**

- US 53, 40th Avenue (Lake Hallie) - County B (town of Tilden)

# Questions and input

## ▶ Provide comments by **Aug. 3, 2020**

### ■ Via written comment form

Jesse Larson, P.E.  
WisDOT Northwest Region – Eau Claire Office  
718 W. Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

### ■ Via email

[Jesse.Larson@dot.wi.gov](mailto:Jesse.Larson@dot.wi.gov)

### Public Involvement Meeting Comment Form

ID 1190-08-09 (79)  
Chippewa Falls - New Auburn  
40th Avenue to County B  
US 53  
Chippewa County

July 20, 2020

Please place this form in the comment box or mail by **Aug. 3, 2020** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to [jesse.larson@dot.wi.gov](mailto:jesse.larson@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: \_\_\_\_\_

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.*