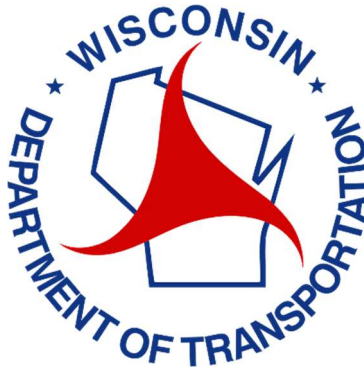


# Public Involvement Meeting Handout

**US 18/151  
County F Intersection  
Dane County**

Project ID: 1204-05-07



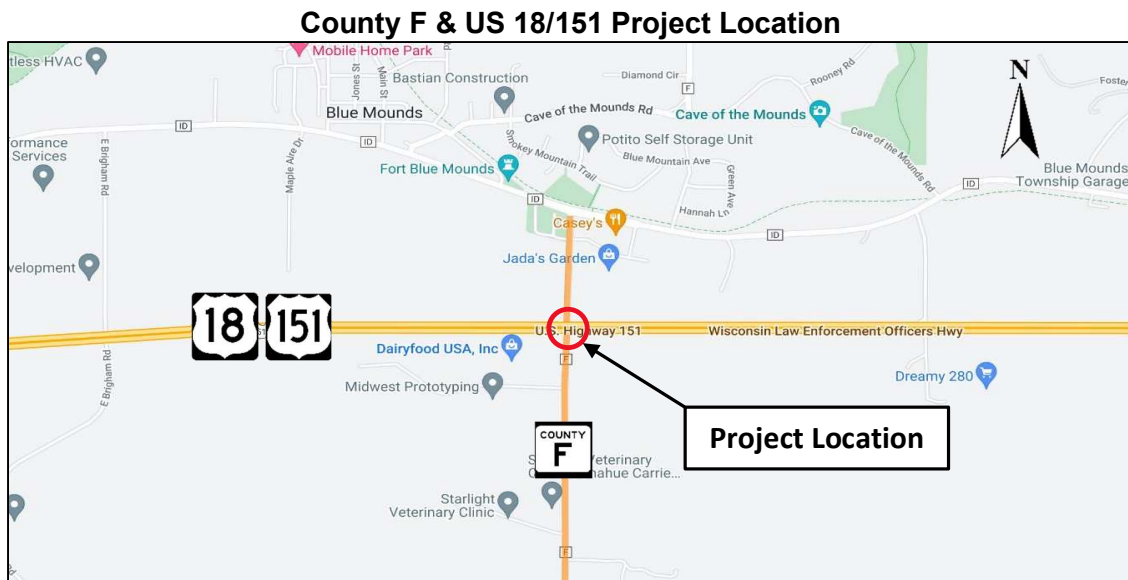
**October 11, 2022  
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Blue Mounds Village Office**

## Purpose of the meeting

Welcome to the public involvement meeting for the intersection of County F and US 18/151. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to address comments from the prior public involvement meeting, provide information on the proposed improvements, gather input, and answer questions. Your continued input on the proposed improvements is appreciated. The meeting will run from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A presentation is scheduled to begin at 5:15 p.m. The remainder of the meeting will follow an open-house format with displays of the improvement alternatives available for viewing.

## Project information

The intersection of County F and US 18/151 is located in the village of Blue Mounds in western Dane 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 18,100 vehicles. County F is a two-lane county highway with a speed limit of 55 mph and an AADT of less than 900 vehicles.

County F north of US 18/151 provides access to the village of Blue Mounds, Blue Mound State Park, the Military Ridge Trail, and Brigham County Park. County F south of US 18/151 provides access to the Blue Mounds Industrial Park. Stop signs are in place on both legs of County F at the intersection.

## Previous Studies

In 2013, WisDOT completed the US 18/151 Freeway Conversion Study. The Freeway Conversion Study evaluated changes which would be needed to the US 18/151 corridor in order to convert it from an expressway to a freeway if a freeway was deemed necessary based on several corridor criteria. Expressways contain at-grade intersections, similar to County F, while freeways require the removal of all direct at-grade access to the highway.

WisDOT understands the value of US 18/151 between Verona and Dodgeville - this corridor is part of the "Backbone" system that consists of the most critical routes statewide for tourism, industry, and other trips. The Department has made significant investments over the past few decades in the construction, enhancement and preservation of this key corridor connecting Iowa and Wisconsin.

A wholesale conversion of US 18/151 from Verona to Dodgeville to a fully access-controlled freeway is not in WisDOT plans for the foreseeable future because safety and congestion issues on the corridor do not warrant such action. WisDOT expects that needs on the corridor can be appropriately and more cost-effectively resolved with localized improvements to address site-specific operational and safety concerns. Such improvements will be evaluated using asset management principles the Department has adopted in alignment with Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) performance-based practical design concepts.

Given the abundance of statewide needs coupled with current financial constraints, an asset management strategy continues to be prudent. The department typically considers freeway conversion projects when safety and operational issues cannot be adequately addressed by less comprehensive solutions. Please be assured WisDOT will continue to monitor safety and operations issues on this segment, and the Department will adjust its approach if needs dictate.

The project team also looked at the County F intersection to see if an interchange could be funded as a stand-alone project based on public comment. At this time, the AADT on County F is less than 900 vehicles. An interchange is considered when traffic counts are nearing an AADT of 2000 vehicles. The needs on this interchange can be appropriately and more cost-effectively resolved with the Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) proposed to remedy this site-specific safety concern.

### Crash History

The County F and US 18/151 intersection has been identified as having a trend of angle crashes due to County F vehicles failing to yield to US 18/151 traffic. During a five-year period from 2016 through 2020, eight angle crashes occurred at the intersection. Six of the eight angle crashes (75%) involved County F vehicles traveling through the intersection. Two of the eight angle crashes (25%) involved County F vehicles making a right turn onto US 18/151.

The through movements accounted for three of the four injury crashes. A fatal crash also occurred in 2015 when a southbound County F vehicle attempted to cross through the intersection.

### 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).

### Preferred RCUT Alternative

Movements from US 18/151 would remain the same. County F vehicles wanting to go through the intersection or make a left turn onto US 18/151 would make a right turn directly into a new left-turn lane constructed along the inside of US 18/151. The vehicles would then make a U-turn and either continue on US 18/151 or turn directly into the right turn-lane to County F.

This alternative includes the construction of offset right-turn lanes which would improve the sight distance at the intersection.

## Wisconsin RCUT Intersections

Below is a summary of crash frequency reductions at two RCUT intersections that were recently constructed in Wisconsin that have similar traffic volumes and speeds as the County F & US 18/151 intersection:

- WIS 23 and County M (Constructed in 2013)
  - 75% reduction in number of crashes
  - 100% reduction in injury/fatal crashes
- US 57 and County C/D (Constructed in 2015)
  - 84% reduction in number of crashes
  - 94% reduction in injury/fatal crashes

## **Proposed traffic impacts**

Construction is currently scheduled for 2026. During construction, US 18/151 will remain open and be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction with staged construction. County F is expected to be closed to traffic.

## **Real estate**

The preferred RCUT alternative would require small amounts of new real estate. Permanent right of way is not anticipated; however, minor amounts of Temporary Limited Easement would be required.

## **Project update/next steps**

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • Public Involvement Meeting #2 | October 11, 2022 |
| • Preliminary Plans             | Summer 2023      |
| • Real Estate Starts            | Fall 2023        |
| • Final Plans                   | August 2025      |
| • Construction                  | Summer 2026      |

## **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-bluemounds/default.aspx>



## **Public input/comments**

Comment sheets are available at the meeting for your written comments and input regarding the proposed project. Please mail any written comments about the project before **November 11, 2022** or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also e-mail your comments to the contact listed below.

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