# **Public Involvement Meeting Handout**

# US 51 County K/Swamp Lake Road Intersection Oneida County

Project ID: 1170-16-02/72



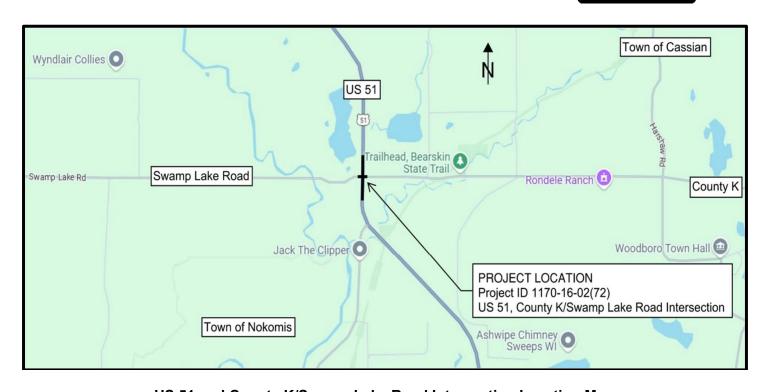
Oct. 14, 2025
5 pm
Northwoods Community Elementary School
9086 County K
Harshaw, WI 54529

#### Purpose of the meeting

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is planning improvements to the US 51 and County K/Swamp Park Road intersection near the towns of Nakomis and Cassian in Oneida County.

The purpose of this meeting is to familiarize you with the details of the project, answer questions, and listen to your comments, concerns, or suggestions. A brief presentation is scheduled to begin at 5 pm. The remainder of the meeting will follow an open house format where representatives from WisDOT will be available to discuss the proposed project. We encourage you to talk to our project staff, view the exhibits, and discuss the proposed improvements.

The meeting materials are also available on the project website which can be viewed at <a href="https://www.wisconsindot.gov">www.wisconsindot.gov</a> under Projects and Studies, North Central Region, US 51 (County K/Swamp Lake Road Intersection), or by scanning the QR code.



**US 51 and County K/Swamp Lake Road Intersection Location Map** 

### **Project information**

WisDOT is developing final plans to improve the US 51 and County K/Swamp Lake Road intersection to address safety at the intersection.

The intersection has experienced a history of severe crashes. Between 2020 and 2024, 12 crashes were recorded at the intersection, two of which were fatal crashes and seven of which resulted in injuries. The majority of the crashes were southbound rear end and angle collisions associated with left turn movements from US 51 to County K or the commercial driveway north of the intersection. Contributing factors for the crashes include failure to yield and high speeds on US 51.

Studies completed in 2024 and 2025 reviewed alternatives for improving intersection safety. The following alternatives were evaluated and presented to the public at a meeting in Jan. 2025:

- No-Action
- Add northbound and southbound left turn lanes and a northbound right turn lane
- · Add a southbound left turn lane and an offset northbound right turn lane
- Roundabout

A single-lane roundabout was identified as the preferred alternative because it will improve the safety of the US 51 and County K/Swamp Lake Road intersection while maintaining traffic operations. The roundabout will geometrically decrease speed through the intersection and reduce right angle crashes within the intersection, thus reducing the severity of crashes that may occur at the intersection.

Proposed improvements for the single-lane roundabout include:

- New asphalt pavement
- New curb and gutter
- New storm sewer
- New pavement markings and signing Intersection lighting

# **Proposed traffic impacts**

Construction is currently planned to begin in spring/summer 2027.

The project is planned to be constructed in stages, with US 51 remaining open to through traffic throughout construction. Closures of County K and Swamp Lake Road are expected during some stages. A posted detour is planned for County K. No detour will be posted for Swamp Lake Road. Motorists can expect to encounter slower speeds, lane shifts, and temporary delays. Access for local residents, businesses, and emergency vehicles will be maintained throughout the project duration.

Construction is currently scheduled for completion in fall 2027.

#### Real estate

Strips of additional right of way and/or temporary grading easements will be required to accommodate the roundabout geometrics and grading. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in 2026.

### Project update/next steps

#### Previous meetings:

Local Officials Meeting #1
 Public Involvement Meeting #1
 Local Officials Meeting #2
 Dec.9, 2024
 Jan. 22, 2025
 Sept. 25, 2025

#### Project update:

Public Involvement Meeting #2
 Final plan submittal
 Project letting

Oct. 14, 2025
Nov. 2026
Feb. 2027

- Construction Spring/Summer to Fall 2027

Utility relocation work will occur prior to intersection construction.

### **Public input/comments**

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. There is a comment sheet available for your written comments and concerns about the project.

Please mail, email, or call with any comments and concerns about the project before Nov. 11, 2025, or leave written comments tonight.

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:

Stacy Hagenbucher, P.E. Wisconsin Department of Transportation 510 Hanson Lake Road Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 365-5770 <a href="mailto:stacy.hagenbucher@dot.wi.gov">stacy.hagenbucher@dot.wi.gov</a>

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# In This Together Program

A quick guide to help your business prepare for road construction



# **ORGANIZE EARLY**



- Learn more about the project and its timeline
- Develop questions for WisDOT staff
- Check in with neighboring businesses and/or local business organization



- Can you partner on promotions, events or materials?
- Establish a point of contact for the business community?



# STAY ENGAGED WITH THE PROJECT



- Attend public involvement meeting(s)
- Make note of contact information for the project team, and voice the unique needs of your business
- Learn more about project resources



- *Is there a construction website?*
- Is there a mailing list?
- *Is there an email distribution?*



# **HELP CUSTOMERS FIND YOU**



- Consult with project staff to determine when and where there may be closures or detours
- Ask about temporary signage options
- Consider how best to inform customers



- Maybe a joint communication with neighboring businesses for employees and customers about traffic and parking?
- Maybe a feature article in a customer-facing newsletter?
- Maybe a social media post shared by businesses and local community pages?



# DEVELOP AND ACTIVATE YOUR GAME PLAN



- Check out case studies at wisconsindot.gov/together
- Connect with project contacts to discuss any potential obstacles specific to your business such as deliveries, operational hours, employee parking, etc.
- Check in with employees



- Is there a consistent message for customers?
- Are there temporary changes to shift times, parking, or deliveries?



# **END OF CONSTRUCTION**



- Stay positive, be flexible and know that WisDOT staff are available to help
- Collect any temporary signage
- Let customers know!



- Consider working with other businesses on a special event?
- Share social media about the project's benefits?
- Ask customers to help spread the word?



Remember, we are In This Together! For more planning ideas, tips and resources: wisconsindot.gov/together