

Public Involvement

WIS 161
WIS 49 Southbound to WIS 110
Waupaca County
Design ID: 6260-00-02
Real Estate ID: 6260-00-22
Construction ID: 6260-00-72



August 22, 2025 to September 19, 2025

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled persons should contact the Wisconsin Relay Service for assistance by dialing 711.

Purpose

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is in the process of developing plans for proposed improvements along WIS 161 in Waupaca County. The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the proposed improvements, address impacts to traffic during construction and offer an additional opportunity for public comment. We appreciate your input and encourage you to review the project information and provide comments.

Project Information

We are proposing to improve 10.3 miles of WIS 161 between WIS 49 Southbound and WIS 110, in the village of Iola and the towns of Iola, Helvetia and Union.

Improvements are needed to address the existing pavement condition on WIS 161 which is showing signs of distress, primarily in the form of alligator, longitudinal and transverse cracking with rutting. Also, several culverts and sections of curb and gutter are deteriorating and in need of repair or replacement. The existing guardrail and pedestrian curb ramps also need to be upgraded to meet current design standards and improve safety.

The purpose of this project is to address the existing roadway deficiencies and ensure the preservation of the roadway.

Proposed improvements include:

- Resurfacing WIS 161 by milling and overlaying the asphalt pavement.
- Replacing eight existing cross culvert pipes and removing one cattle pass and replacing it with a cross culvert pipe.
- Upgrading guardrail to meet current design standards.
- Reconstructing pedestrian curb ramps within the village of Iola to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- Replacing sections of curb and gutter within the village of Iola.

An environmental document has been prepared to address potential impacts to environmental resources along the project corridor.

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2027.

WIS 161 will remain open to traffic using temporary lane closures with flagging operations for most of the construction.

A short-term detour is anticipated during culvert pipe replacement and cattle pass removal. The proposed detour route will utilize US 10 from the WIS 161/US 10 intersection to WIS 22 at the intersection of US10/WIS 22 and rejoin WIS 161 at the intersection of WIS 22/110/161.

Local access to businesses and residences will be maintained during construction. Brief interruptions in access may occur temporarily at driveways. The contractor will be required to notify homeowners and businesses prior to construction. Temporary pedestrian curb ramps will be installed to maintain pedestrian access to the sidewalk during construction.

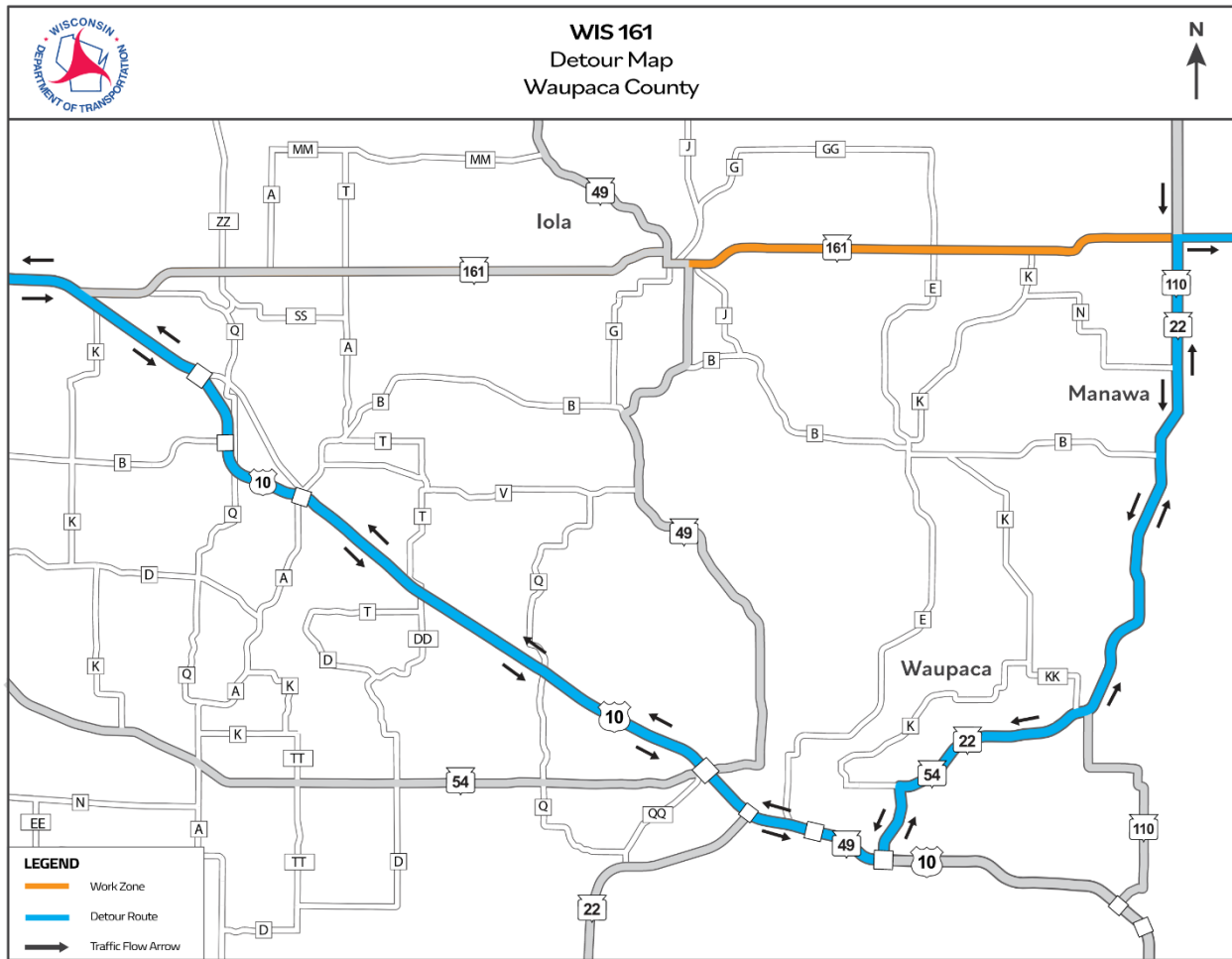


Figure 1: Short-term detour route for cross culvert pipe replacements and cattle pass removal.

Real estate

Minor areas of temporary easements will be required to accommodate the curb ramp upgrades, cattle pass removal, and guardrail replacement and associated grading work. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in August of 2025. Exhibits showing the proposed temporary easements for the project are available on the project website for affected parcels.

Project update/next steps

Public involvement	Summer/Fall 2025
Real estate negotiations	August 2025 – August 2026
Final plans	August 2026
Construction currently scheduled	2027

Public input/comments

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.

There are several ways to submit your input by **September 19, 2025**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. Email comments or questions to the contact listed below

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled persons should contact the Wisconsin Relay Service by dialing 711.

For more information, please contact:

Wendy Arneson, P.E.
WisDOT Project Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
North Central Region
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Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
715-421-7391
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Design ID 6260-00-02
WIS 49 Southbound to WIS 110
WIS 161
Waupaca County

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Would you like someone to contact you about this project: Yes ____ No ____

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.

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Place
Stamp
Here

Attn: Wendy Arneson, P.E.
WisDOT North Central Region – Wisconsin Rapids
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

To mail, fold here and tape.