

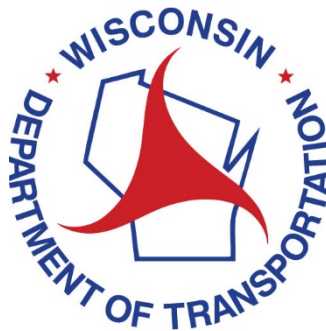
Public Involvement

**WIS 186
WIS 73 to US 10
Wood County**

**ID 6620-00-00 (70)
V Vesper, Wis St and
Cameron Ave
5th Street to Oak
Street**

**ID 6620-00-01 (71)
WIS 73 - Auburndale
Oak Street to US 10**

**ID 6620-00-02 (72)
WIS 73 - Auburndale
WIS 73 to 5th Street**



**Aug. 26, 2025
5 p.m.
Vesper Community Center
5032 Benson Ave, Vesper, WI 54489**

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) welcomes you to this public involvement meeting (PIM) for the proposed improvements to WIS 186 from WIS 73 to US 10 in the townships of Hansen, Sigel, Arpin, and Auburndale, and the villages of Vesper, Arpin, and Auburndale. Refer to Figure 1 on the next page for a project location map.

The objective of this meeting is to provide you with information regarding the proposed improvements to the roadway. WisDOT representatives will give a brief presentation starting at 5 p.m.

Please take time to review the information presented. WisDOT project representatives are available to answer questions. A public comment form is also available to you to provide written comments. Please submit all comments by Sept. 26, 2025.

Project Information

The purpose of the proposed project is to mill and overlay the existing pavement on WIS 186 that is showing signs of progressive cracking, patching, and rutting.

The work for the proposed project is anticipated be completed under three design (construction) IDs that are described below.

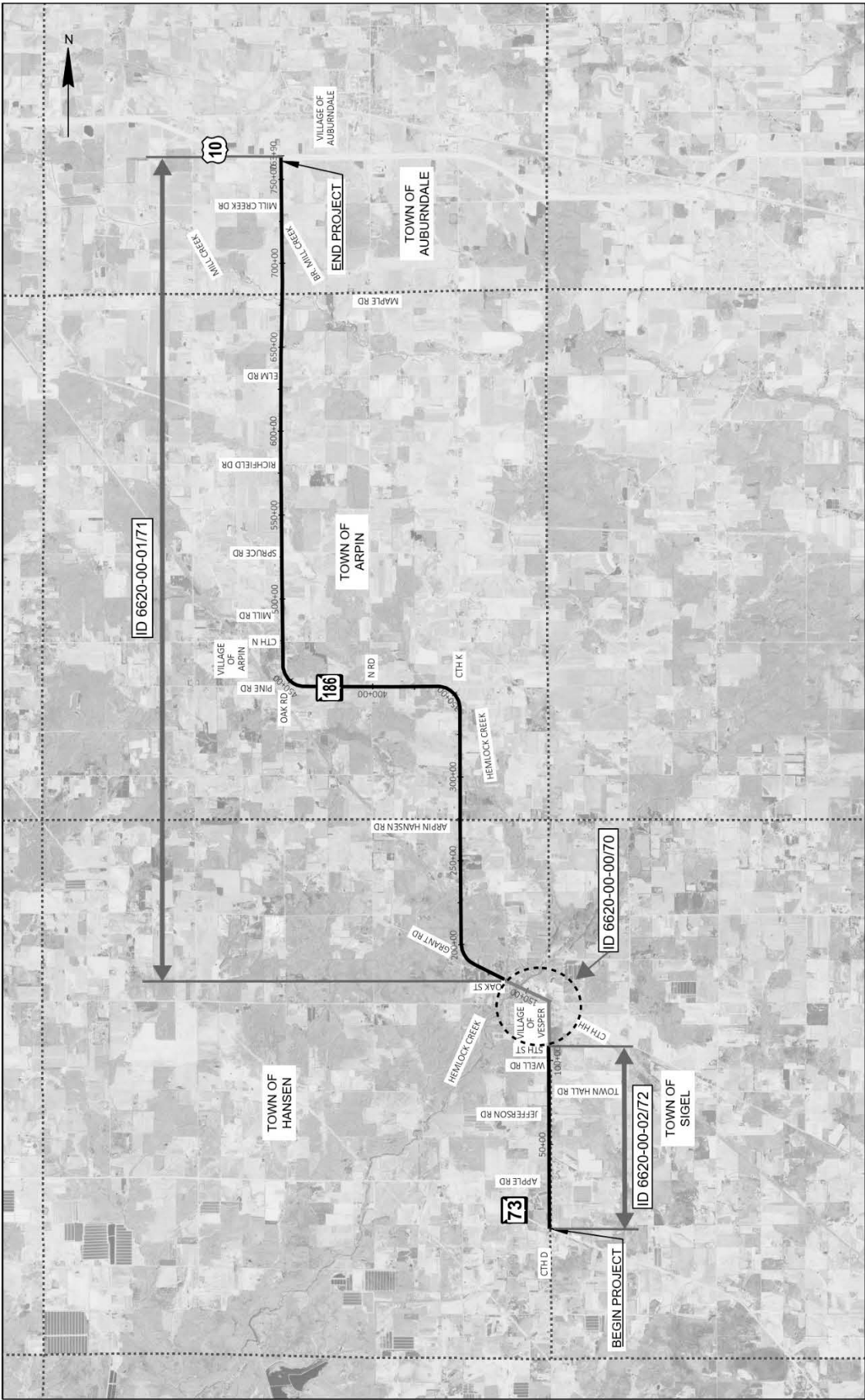
Project ID 6620-00-00 (70)–5th Street to Oak Street: The total project length of this section of WIS 186 is approximately 1 mile. The proposed improvements would include:

- Milling and overlaying the existing asphalt pavement.
- Widening the paved shoulder between 5th Street and Meadow Valley Drive from 3 feet to 5 feet on either side.
- Narrowing the roadway 4 feet on either side for a total of 8 feet with new curb and gutter and in-kind storm sewer replacements between 3rd Street and Cameron Avenue.
- Extending the existing sidewalk on the north and south sides of WIS 186 between Wisconsin Street and Robert Street where none currently exists.
- Replacing existing curb ramps to meet standards between Robert Street and Oak Street.
- Replacing curb and gutter in spots as needed within the project limits.
- Replacing guardrail in the northwest quadrant and placing new guardrail in the northeast quadrant of the bridge over Hemlock Creek.
- Replacing existing culverts approximately 200 feet south of 3rd Street.

Project ID 6620-00-01 (71)/6620-00-02 (72)–Oak Street to US 10/WIS 73 to 5th Street: The total project length for these sections of WIS 186 are 11.4 miles (ID 71) and 2 miles (ID 72). The proposed improvements include:

- Milling and overlaying the existing asphalt pavement.
- Paving the entire 6-foot shoulder width from Oak Street to US 10.
- Widening the paved shoulder between Well Road and 5th Street from 3 feet to 5 feet on either side.
- Replacing guardrail at the structures across Mill Creek and the North Branch of Mill Creek.
- Replacing existing culverts.

Figure 1: Project Location Map



Proposed traffic impacts

During construction on WIS 186, the roadway would be closed to through traffic, and a posted detour would be provided. Access to local residents and emergency vehicles would be maintained at all times.

Construction for all three projects is currently scheduled for 2028.

Real estate

Permanent right of way and temporary limited easements (TLE) for curb ramp updates are anticipated. TLEs are also anticipated at guardrail and pipe replacement locations. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in summer 2026.

Project update/next steps

Local officials meeting	July 31, 2025
Public involvement	Aug. 26, 2025
Preliminary plans	September 2025 (6620-00-01/02) March 2026 (6620-00-00)
Environmental document	October 2025 (6620-00-01/02) April 2026 (6620-00-00)
Final right of way plat	June 2026 (6620-00-00) November 2025 (6620-00-01/02)
Real estate negotiations	Summer 2026
Final plans	December 2027 (6620-00-00) February 2027 (6620-00-01/02)
Construction currently scheduled	2028

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 **Sept. 26, 2025**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT.
2. Email comments or questions to any of the following contact(s) listed.

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

For more information, please contact:

Elle Miller, P.E.
WisDOT Project Manager
North Central Region
(715) 315-9237
elizabeth.miller@dot.wi.gov

Eric Hanson, P.E.
Consultant Project Manager
Strand Associates, Inc.®
(608) 251-4843
eric.hanson@strand.com

Elizabeth Garfoot, P.E.
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(608) 251-4843
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Open for
Business



DRAFT

In This Together Program

*A quick guide to help your business
prepare for road construction*

1 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?*

2

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?*

3

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?*

4

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?*

5

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

Fold here

Place
Stamp
Here

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

To mail, fold here and tape.