

# Public Involvement

WIS 44

WIS 73 North to Grand River Bridge

Green Lake County

Project ID: 6100-00-01(71)



Jan. 26, 2026 to Feb. 23, 2026

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

## Purpose

WisDOT is in the process of developing plans for proposed improvements along WIS 44 in Green Lake County. The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the proposed improvements, address impacts to traffic during construction and offer an opportunity for public comments. We appreciate your input and encourage you to review the project information and provide comments.

## Project Information

We are proposing to improve 3.8 miles of WIS 44 between WIS 73 north and the Grand River Bridge in the town of Manchester and city of Markesan, Green Lake County.

Improvements are needed along WIS 44 to address deteriorating pavement, outdated guardrail systems, inadequate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and drainage features that are nearing the end of their service life. Several intersections and culvert locations also have steep slopes, erosion issues, or turning-radius limitations that create safety and maintenance concerns.

The purpose of the project is to address the existing roadway and guardrail deficiencies, improve drainage system deficiencies, and improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Proposed improvements would include:

- Resurfacing WIS 44, including turn lanes and intersections, with new asphalt pavement.
- Widening the northwest corner radius and flattening slopes at the County I north intersection.
- Upgrading guardrail to meet current design standards
- Replacing pedestrian curb ramps, segments of sidewalk and curb and gutter along WIS 44 within the city of Markesan.
- Widening the paved shoulders by paving portions of the existing aggregate shoulders in the town of Manchester and within the city of Markesan to better accommodate bicyclists.
- Replacing culverts at 10 locations.
- Improving drainage in the town of Manchester by replacing inlets and regrading ditches.
- Improving slopes adjacent to box culvert C-24-4856 by removing the existing box culvert and replacing it with a culvert pipe.

An environmental document is being prepared to address potential impacts to environmental resources along the project corridor.

## Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2029.

WIS 44 would remain open to traffic using temporary lane closures controlled by flagging operations for the majority of construction.

A short-term duration detour is anticipated during culvert pipe replacements and during the box culvert removal and replacement with a culvert pipe. Local access to businesses and residents would be maintained. The proposed detour route would utilize WIS 73 and County I.

Local access to businesses and residences would be maintained during construction. Brief interruptions in access may occur temporarily at driveways. Temporary pedestrian curb ramps would be installed to maintain pedestrian access to the sidewalk during construction.

## Real estate

Small areas of temporary easements are anticipated to complete curb ramp replacements and grading work. Permanent right-of-way acquisition (FEE) is also anticipated at select locations. Any impacted property owners would be contacted directly during the design process.

## Project update/next steps

|                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Local officials meeting          | January 2026                |
| Public involvement               | January 2026– February 2026 |
| Environmental document           | April 2026                  |
| Final right of way plat          | July 2026                   |
| Real estate negotiations         | July 2026 – May 2028        |
| Final plans                      | May 2028                    |
| Construction currently scheduled | 2029                        |

## 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 **Feb. 23, 2026:**

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. Complete the fillable online survey on the project website  
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/>
3. Email comments or questions to the contact(s) 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:

Michael Jelinek  
Project Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
North Central Region  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
715-421-8098  
michael.jelinek@dot.wi.gov



Open for  
Business



# 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](http://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](http://wisconsindot.gov/together)

## Involvement Comment Form

Project ID 6100-00-01(71)  
Manchester to Ripon  
WIS 73 north to Grand River Bridge  
WIS 44  
Green Lake County

Please mail by **Feb. 23, 2026** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to [michael.jelinek@dot.wi.gov](mailto:michael.jelinek@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): \_\_\_\_\_

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: Michael Jelinek  
WisDOT North Central Region – Wisconsin Rapids  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

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To mail, fold here and tape.