

Public Involvement Meeting

**WIS 52
City of Wausau, East Wausau Avenue
North 6th Street to North 18th Street
Marathon County**

Project ID: 6999-00-01



May 14, 2025

This handout and other items are available on this project's design website at

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis52marathon/default.aspx>

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to your feedback.

Purpose

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is in the process of developing plans for proposed improvements on approximately one mile of WIS 52 in the Marathon County. The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the proposed improvements, describe the potential impacts, and offer an opportunity for public comment.

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 and are welcomed and appreciated throughout the design process.

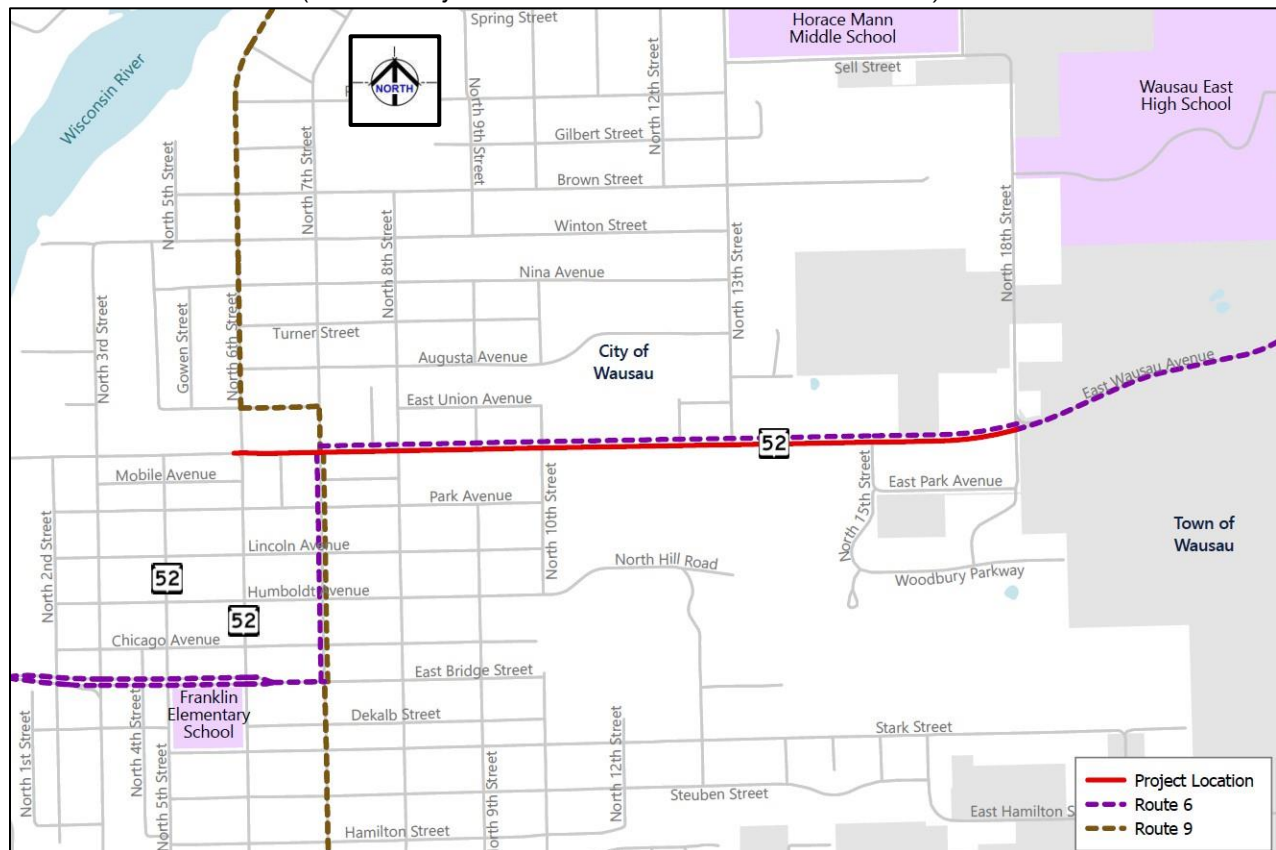
Included at the end of this handout, as well as on the project website, is a comment form that may be used for written comments regarding the proposed improvements. You are encouraged to fill out this form and return using the pre-paid mailer attached. Comments may also be submitted via email or phone to the contact listed below.

Project location

The project is located on WIS 52 in the city and town of Wausau between North 6th Street and North 18th Street.

WIS 52 is also a designated Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) bicycle route from North 7th Street to County X (Route 6). Route 9 crosses WIS 52 at North 7th Street.

(WIS 52 Project Limits and Wausau MPO Bike Routes)



Connecting Highway Limits

Within the project limits, WIS 52 is designated as a WisDOT Connecting Highway.

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/data-plan/plan-res/connecting.aspx>

- Connecting highways carry state highway traffic on local streets
- Connecting highway aids from WisDOT help the city of Wausau maintain WIS 52 to state highway standards
- The city of Wausau
 - Maintains the roadway and drainage systems
 - Controls access
 - Owns the right of way

Project purpose and need

The pavement was reconstructed in 1988 and 1991 with concrete pavement with ongoing repairs. The North 18th Street intersection was widened with turn lanes in 2005, and an asphalt overlay was placed in 2008 from North 6th Street to North 13th Street. The existing pavement is deteriorating with cracking and rutting throughout. The pavement has met the end of its useful service life.

Additional needs include:

- Deteriorated curb and gutter and drainage inlets.
- Existing curb ramps do not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- There are no pedestrian facilities along the north side of WIS 52 from North 13th Street to North 18th Street.
- Outdated traffic signal equipment at the North 6th Street intersection.
- Poor accommodation for pedestrians through the North 6th Street intersection
 - Curb ramps do not meet ADA standards
 - No pedestrian push buttons on the traffic signals
 - No marked crosswalks
- City municipal facilities (sewer and water) are deteriorating and outdated.
- There are ongoing crashes occurring between North 6th Street and North 13th Street.
 - Crash data (2017 to 2021): total of 41 crashes
 - 51% of crashes involved rear end collisions
 - 37% of crashes consisted of angle collisions at driveways and intersections
 - The lack of turn lanes was determined to be a contributing factor
 - School-age traffic was also a contributing factor
 - 40% of the drivers involved in the crashes were under 25 years of age
 - Most crashes occurred during the AM and PM school travel periods
 - Review of current crash data demonstrates that similar crash patterns are continuing to occur

Proposed improvements

The following improvements are proposed to address the project needs.

Pavement improvements

- Full depth pavement replacement on WIS 52 with new asphalt pavement and new curb and gutter between North 6th Street and North 18th Street

Drainage improvements

- Replace the drainage inlets and repair the storm sewer as needed throughout the project
- Address overland flows from the south side of WIS 52 to minimize icing on the sidewalks and roadway by installing drain tile

Sidewalks improvements

- Replace all sidewalk and upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA standards, where feasible
- Construct new sidewalk along the north side of WIS 52 from North 13th Street to North 18th Street (subject to city approval)

North 6th Street Intersection improvements

- Install new traffic signals and add pedestrian push buttons at the traffic signals
- Upgrade the geometry to better accommodate pedestrians

Municipal improvements

- Replace municipal sewer and water between North 6th Street and North 13th Street
- Install new street lighting (subject to city approval)

Alternatives to Address Safety Needs

- Funding was approved for safety improvements between North 6th Street and North 13th Street.
- The project will evaluate multiple typical sections for the reconstruction of WIS 52 roadway including a median turn lane (two-way left-turn lane) to improve safety.

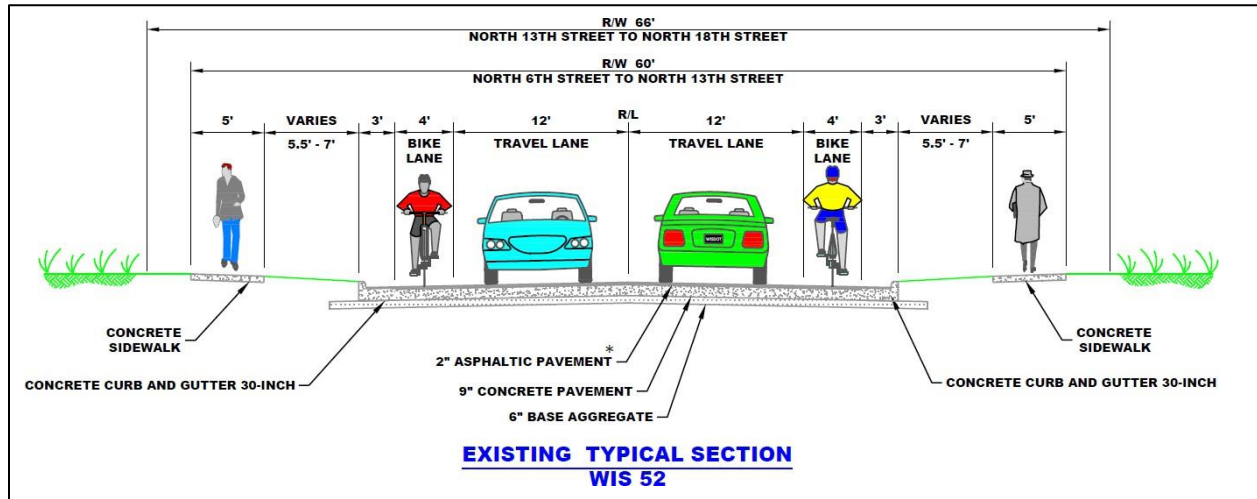
The selected typical section is subject to public input and approval of the environmental document.

Alternatives

- No-Build alternative
- Alternative A1/A2 – safety improvements with median left turn lane
- Alternative B1/B2 – no safety improvements
- Alternative C – combination of Alternative A, B, and added input
- Alternative D – replace in kind alternative

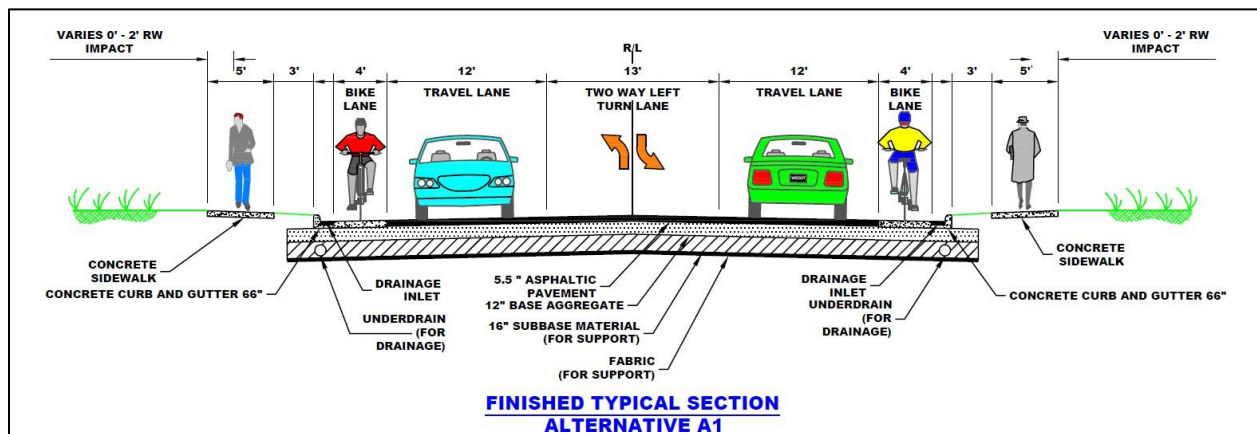
No-Build Alternative

- Maintains all existing conditions
- Continues maintenance of pavement, drainage, and utility systems
- Does not address identified needs
- Results in increasing maintenance costs over time



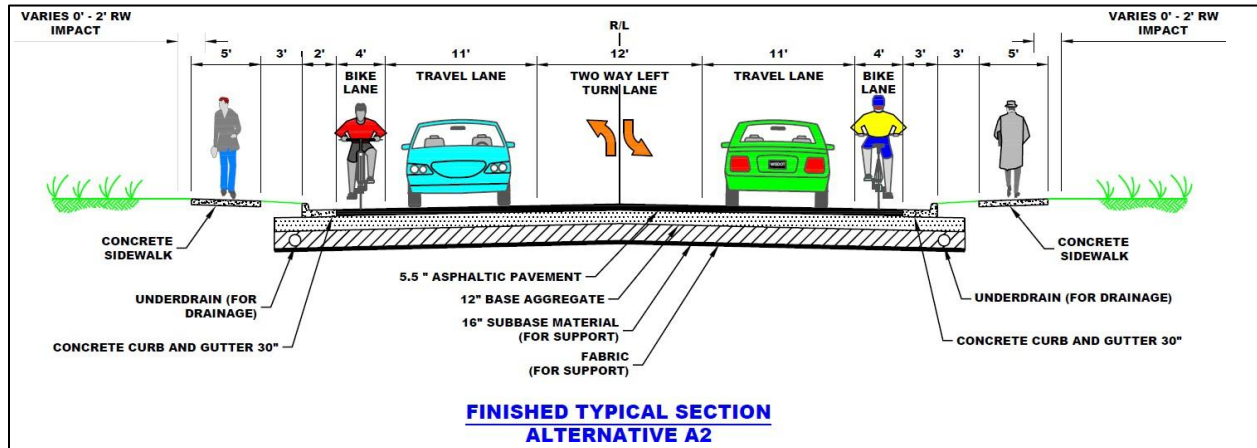
Alternative A1 - safety improvement with median turn lane

- 12-ft travel lanes and 13-ft median turn lane
- 4-ft bike lanes within gutter pan (uses a wider 66-inch curb and gutter)
- New sidewalks (5 to 6-ft width); terrace varies from 0-ft to 3-ft to minimize impacts
- Eastbound travel lane would be superelevated (tipped up) between North 12th Street and North 18th Street



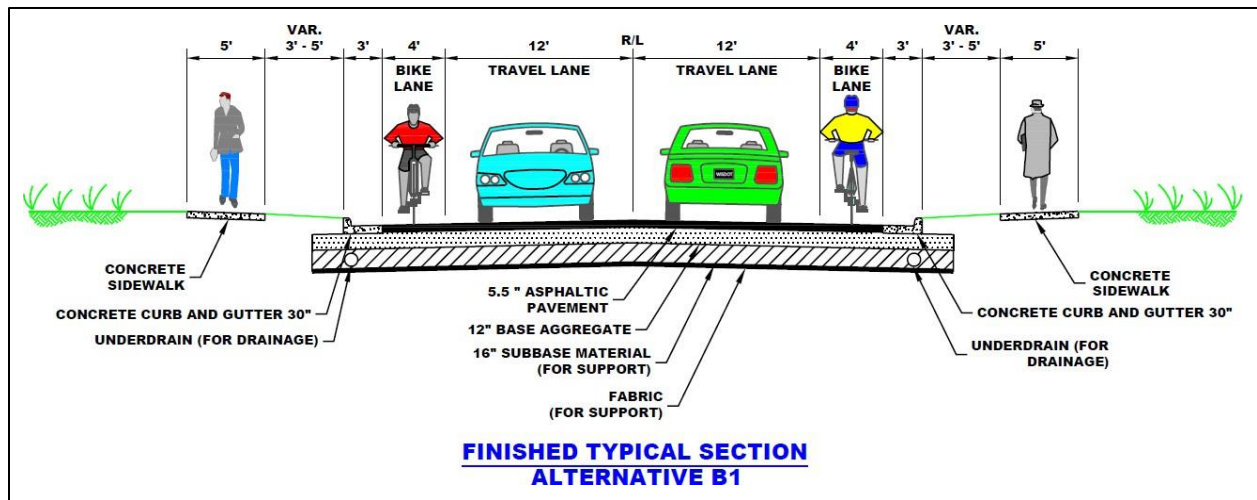
Alternative A2 - safety improvement with median turn lane

- Implements minimum with standards to reduce impacts
- 11-ft travel lanes and 12-ft median turn lane
- 4-ft bike lane with standard 30-inch curb and gutter
- New sidewalks (5 to 6-ft width); terrace varies from 0-ft to 3-ft to minimize impacts
- Eastbound travel lane would be superelevated (tipped up) between North 12th Street and North 18th Street



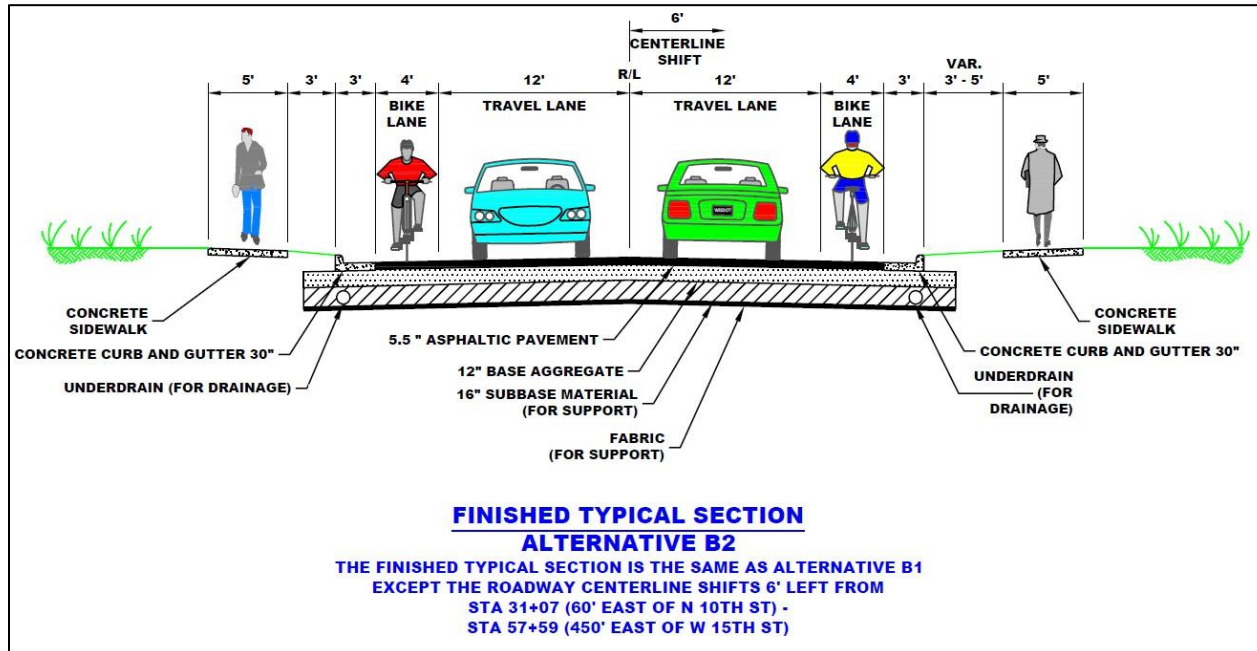
Alternative B1 – no safety improvements

- 12-ft travel lanes
- 4-ft bike lane with standard 30-inch curb and gutter
- New sidewalks (5 to 6-ft width)
- Terrace is typically 5-ft; varies from 0-ft to 3-ft to minimize impacts at select locations



Alternative B2 – no safety improvements

- Same as Alternative B1 except that the centerline is shifted 6-ft north from North 10th Street to North 15th Street
- Alignment shift is being considered avoid making steep driveway slopes along the south side of WIS 52 worse



Alternative C – combination of various alternatives

- Alternative C could be some combination of Alternative A (safety improvements), Alternative B (no safety improvements), and other input collected from stakeholders

Alternative D – replace in kind alternative

- Replaces all pavement and curb and gutter at existing elevations
- Replaces sidewalk only where impacted due to curb ramp upgrades, utility and drainage work
- Would retain features similar to the existing conditions with limited changes to pavement and driveway slopes and drainage patterns
- Minimizes all impacts, where feasible

Preliminary impacts

Alternative	No-Build	Alt A1	Alt A2	Alt B1	Alt B2	Alt C	ALT D
Improves Pavement and Drainage	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD	TBD
Improves Pedestrian Accommodations	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD	TBD
Improves North 6 th Street Intersection	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD	TBD
Provides Bicycle Accommodations	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD	TBD
Improves Safety	--	✓	✓	--	--	TBD	TBD
New Permanent Right of Way (acre)*	--	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	TBD	TBD
Temporary Easements (acre)*	--	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	TBD	TBD
Permanent Drainage Easements (acre)*	--	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	TBD	TBD
Tree Impacts	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD	TBD

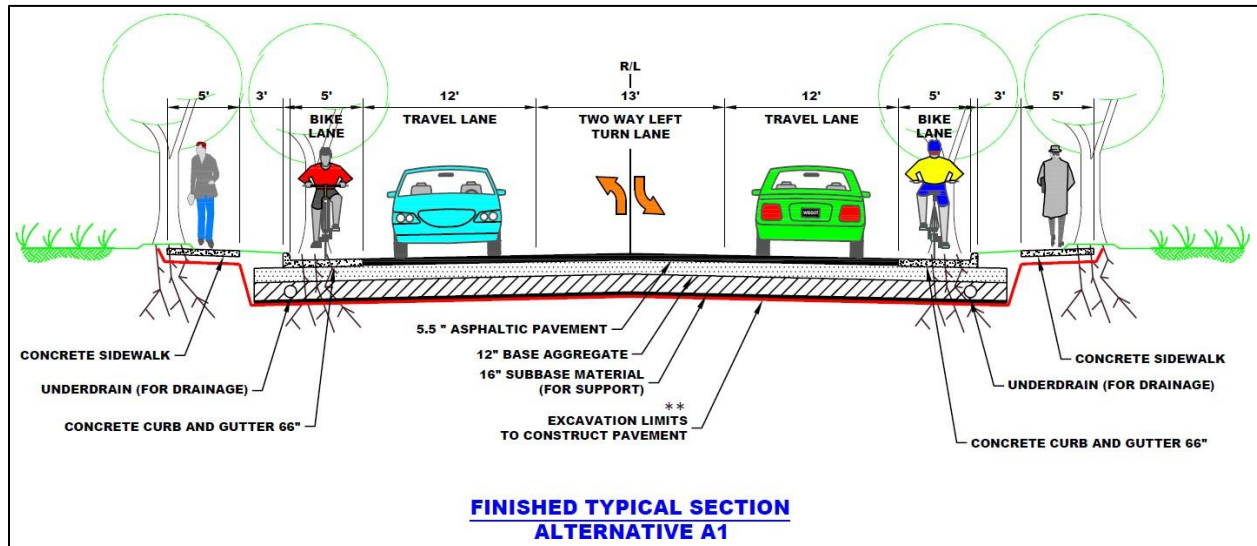
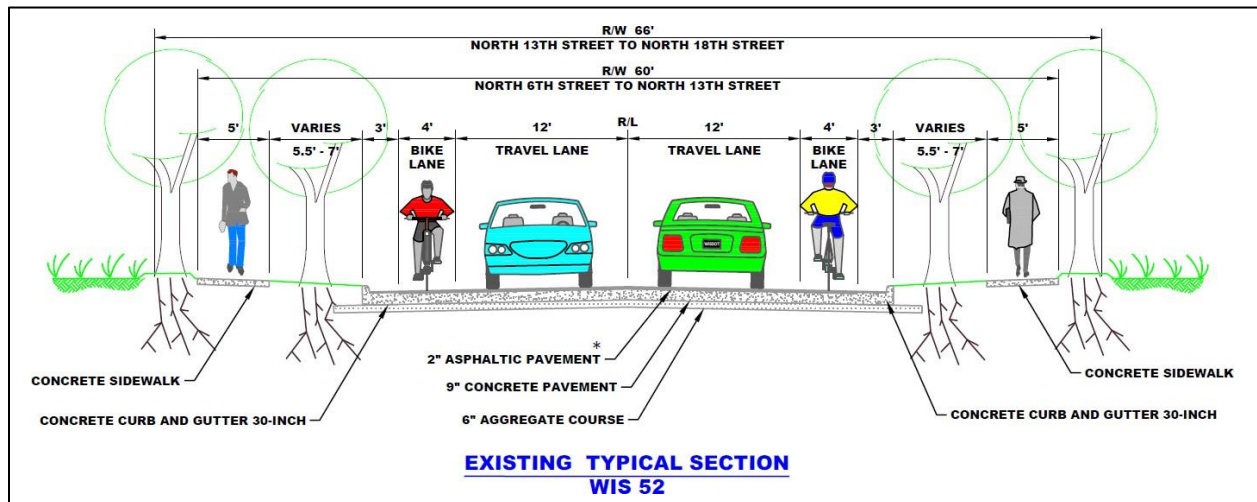
* Values are based on level of design completed

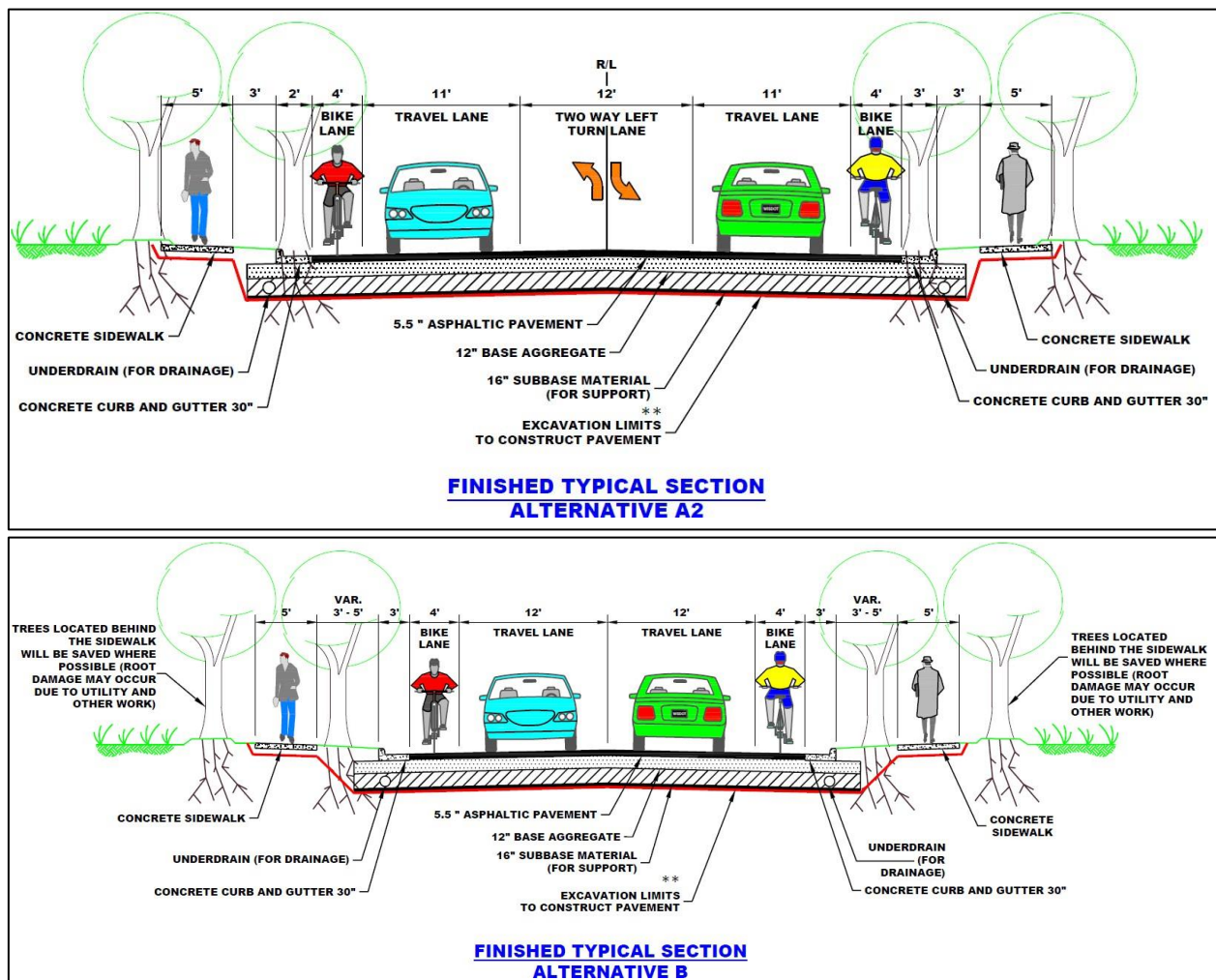
TBD = To Be Determined

Tree Impacts

- Tree impacts area shown with an asterisk (*) on the project exhibits
 - Saving any trees will be determined during the design process
- Ash trees are shown with a different color asterisk (*) on the project exhibits
 - Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that kills ash trees
 - Per Wisconsin DNR, EAB commonly kills ash trees costing local governments significant dollars for tree removal and replacement
 - The city of Wausau has a plan in place for management (removal and disposal) of ash trees to avoid spreading EAB: <https://www.marathoncounty.gov/services/urban-forestry>
- Excavation impacts
 - Due to 3-ft pavement excavation and utility impacts, there would be similar tree and tree root impacts for all proposed alternatives
 - Additional excavation will be required for drainage and utilities (**) which may impact trees

ESTIMATED EXCAVATION LIMITS





Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2029.

- WIS 52 traffic will be detoured.
 - Various state and county routes will be evaluated.
- WIS 52 will remain open to local and emergency traffic.
 - Local staging requirements will be determined during the design process
 - Coordination for postmaster, garbage, bus routes, etc.
- Motorists can expect some delays to occur

More details will be shared on sequencing and staging at future meetings. Frequent coordination will occur with property owners and businesses during construction.

Your feedback is needed

Property and business owners are encouraged to provide information on traffic and access needs on your comment form. Important information to share would include items such as:

- Handicap or other special access needs
- Bus route or other special transportation needs
- For businesses:
 - number of visitors or patrons to your location
 - hours of operation and shift changes
 - number of employees (by shift)
 - daily or weekly truck traffic (deliveries, etc.)
 - time of day for deliveries
 - type/size of delivery vehicles

Real estate

Right of way and easements are required for the project.

- Fee acquisition may be required for the new roadway (narrow strips)
- Temporary easements will be required for blending slopes, driveway match points, staging, and utility connections
- Permanent easements may be required for drainage features

Preliminary real estate needs are shown on the exhibits. A landowner rights pamphlet is available.

The city of Wausau will acquire real estate. Any impacted property owners will be contacted directly during the design process. The city of Wausau expects to begin real estate acquisitions in Spring 2026.

Project update/next steps

- Data collection - Fall 2024
- City kickoff meeting - March 12, 2025
- Local Officials Meeting #1 - April 16, 2025
- Public Involvement Meeting #1 - May 14, 2025 **
- Concept plans and reports - Summer 2025
- Local Officials Meeting #2 - Fall 2025
- Public Involvement Meeting #2 - Fall 2025 **
- Environmental Document - Winter 2025
- Preliminary plans and reports - Spring 2026
- Right of Way Acquisition – Spring 2026 to Spring 2028
- Final plans - May 1, 2028
- Construction – 2029

**Additional public meetings will be held, as required, during the design and construction process.

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 **May 28, 2025**:

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/wis52marathon/default.aspx>
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 Leader
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
(715) 421-8098
Michael.Jelinek@dot.wi.gov

Preston Bohn, P.E.
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Public Involvement Comment Form

Project ID 6999-00-01
City Wausau, East Wausau Avenue
North 6th Street to North 18th Street
WIS 52, Marathon County

Please mail by **May 28, 2025** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to 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 a response to your comments? Yes ____ No ____

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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
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Here

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

To mail, fold here and tape.