

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



October 13, 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.

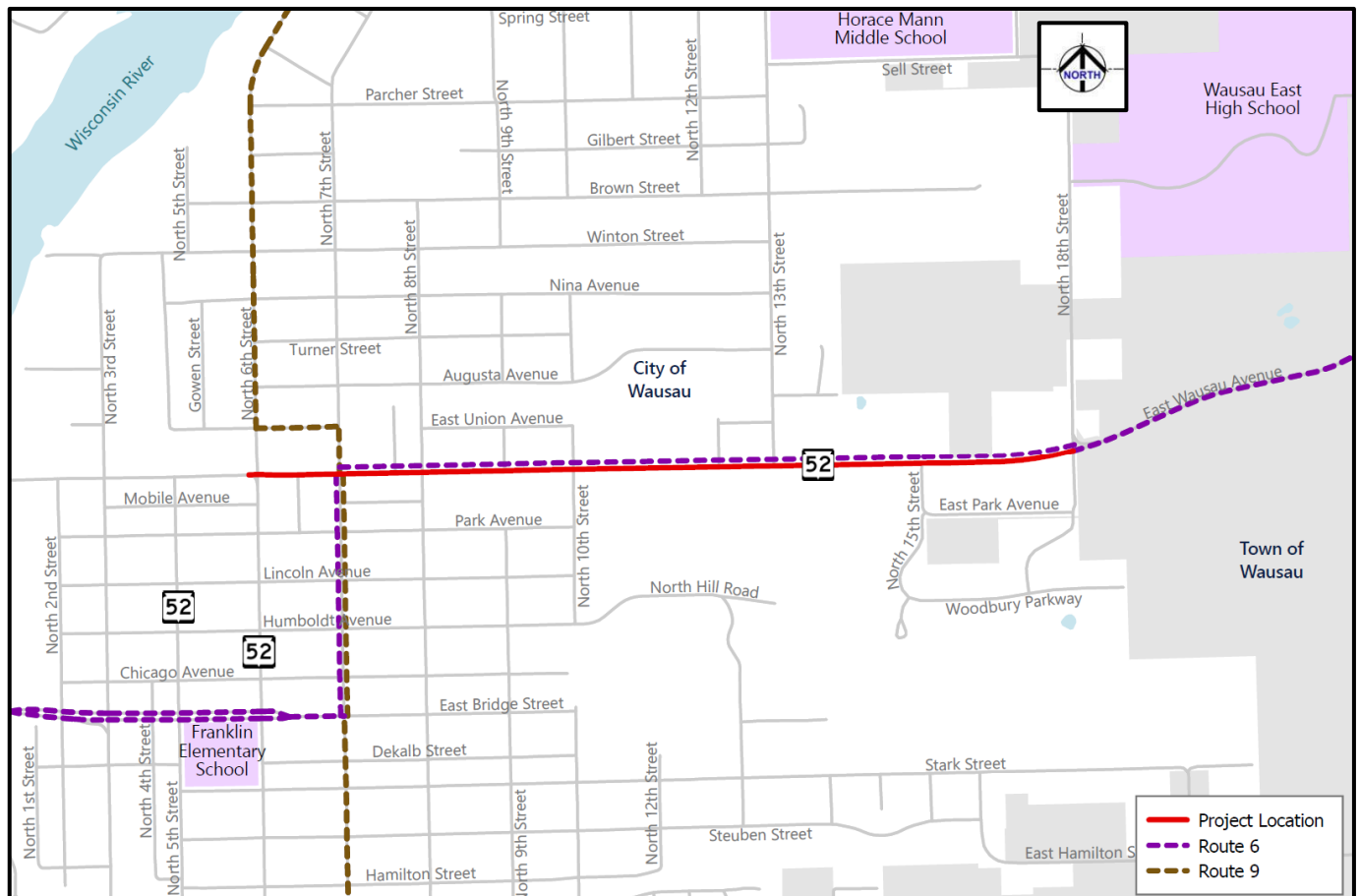
Included at the end of this handout, as well as on the project website, is a comment form that may be used for written comments regarding the proposed improvements. You are encouraged to fill out this form and return using the mailer attached. Comments may also be submitted via email or phone to the 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. An asphalt overlay was placed in 2008 from North 6th Street to North 13th Street.

The existing pavement is deteriorating with cracking and rutting from North 6th Street to approximately 700-feet east of North 15th Street. The pavement along the section of WIS 52 has met the end of its useful service life.

Safety needs:

- 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

Additional infrastructure 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.
- Poor accommodations 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
- Outdated traffic signal equipment at the North 6th Street intersection.
- City municipal facilities (sewer and water) are deteriorating and outdated.

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 approximately 700-feet east of North 15th 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 funding and 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 funding and approval)

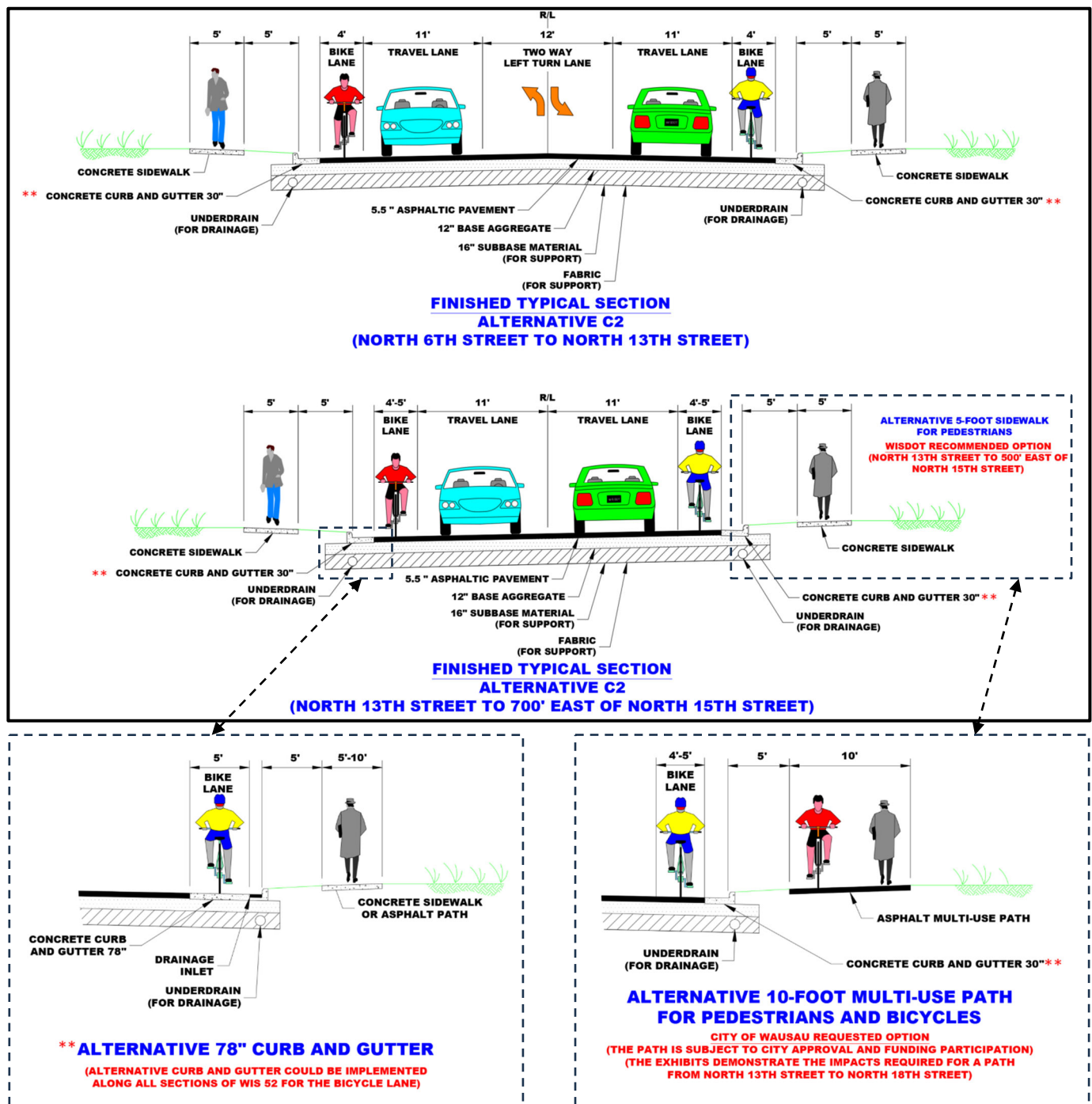
Alternatives to Address Safety Needs

- Funding was approved for safety improvements between North 6th Street and North 13th Street.
- The project has evaluated multiple typical sections for the full pavement replacement along WIS 52 roadway including a median two way left turn lane and standalone left turn lanes to improve safety.
 - A median two way left turn lane is recommended between North 6th Street and North 13th Street to improve safety.

Recommended alternative

The recommended alternative is known as Alternative C2. The proposed typical section includes:

- North 6th Street and North 13th Street
 - 11-foot travel lanes
 - 12-foot median two-way left turn lane to improve safety
 - 4-foot bicycle lanes
 - Two 5-foot sidewalks for pedestrians
- North 13th Street to North 18th Street
 - 11-foot travel lanes
 - 4 to 5-foot bicycle lanes
 - 5-foot sidewalk (north side) for pedestrians (subject to city funding and approval)
 - 5-foot sidewalk (south side) for pedestrians (WisDOT recommended option)
 - City requested option: 10-foot multi-use path for bicycles and pedestrians (subject to city funding and approval)
 - The exhibits demonstrate the preliminary impacts with a multi-use path



Preliminary impacts

Issue	Alternative C2
Improves Pavement and Drainage	✓
Improves Pedestrian Accommodations	✓
Improves North 6 th Street Intersection	✓
Provides Bicycle Accommodations	✓
Improves Safety	✓
New Permanent Right of Way (acre)*	0.8**
Temporary Easements (acre)*	2.9
Permanent Drainage Easements (acre)*	0.02
Building Relocations	None
Tree Impacts	✓

* Values are based on level of design completed

** Estimated right of way is based on a multi-use path along the south side of WIS 52 from North 13th Street to North 18th Street; impacts would be reduced if a sidewalk is used

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 Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), 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 any alternative that was considered
 - Additional excavation will be required for drainage and utilities which may also impact trees

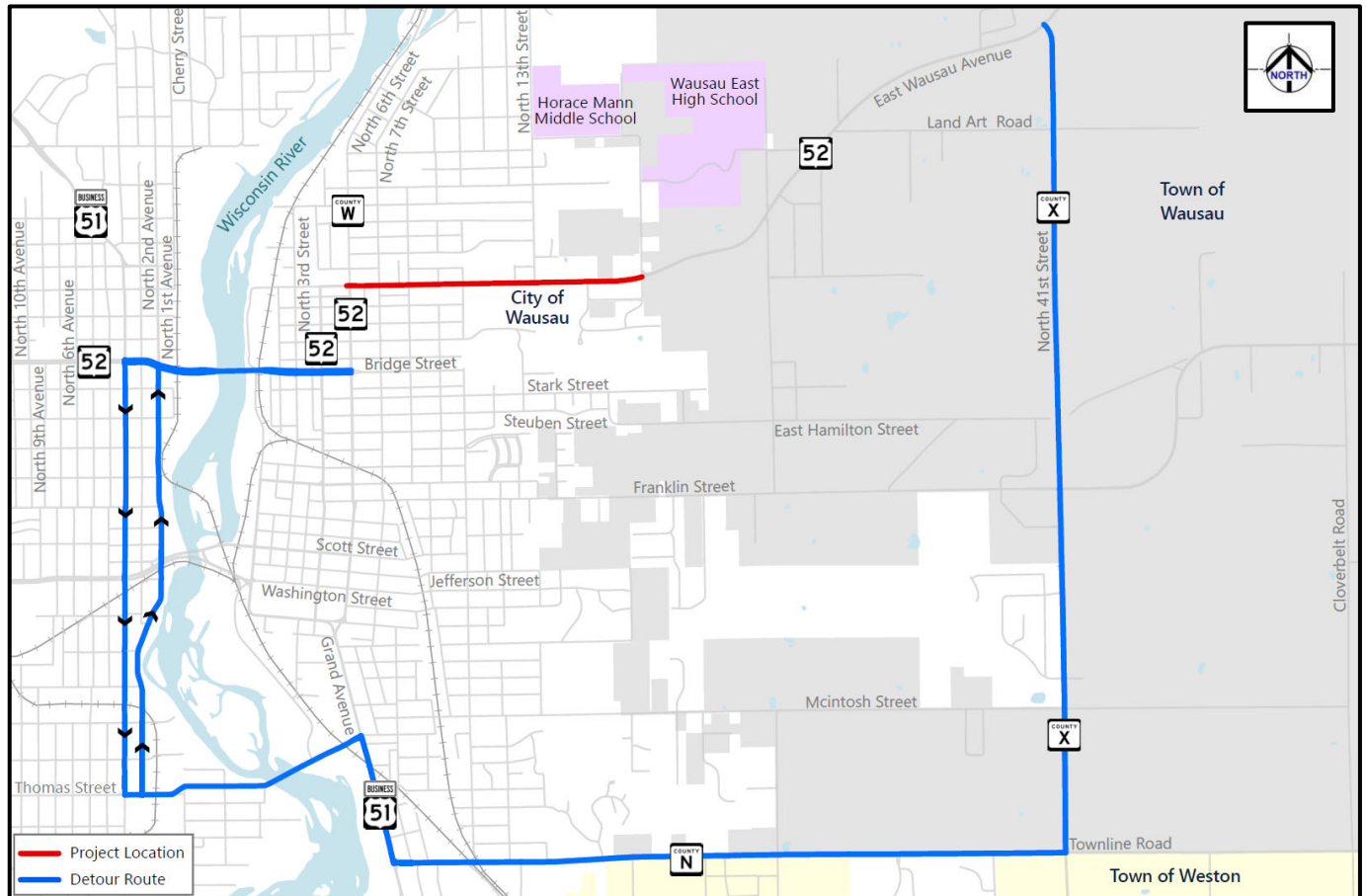
Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2029.

- WIS 52 through traffic will be detoured on Bus 51 to County N to County X.
- 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.

(WIS 52 Posted Detour Route)



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 Summer 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
- Public Involvement Meeting #2 – Oct. 13, 2025
- Environmental Document - Winter 2025
- Preliminary plans and reports - Spring 2026
- Right of Way Acquisition – Summer 2026 to Spring 2028
- Final plans - May 1, 2028
- Construction – 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 **Oct. 27, 2025**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. Review the project website and email comments or questions to the contact(s) listed below
<https://wisconsin.dot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis52marathon/default.aspx>

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

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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 **October 27, 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)

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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

To mail, fold here and tape.