

Public Involvement

WIS 54
Dexterille – Wisconsin Rapids
WIS 80 to County G
Wood County

Project ID: 6950-04-04



February 2026

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

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis54wood/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 10 miles of WIS 54 in Wood County. The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the proposed improvements, describe the potential impacts and offer an opportunity for public comments.

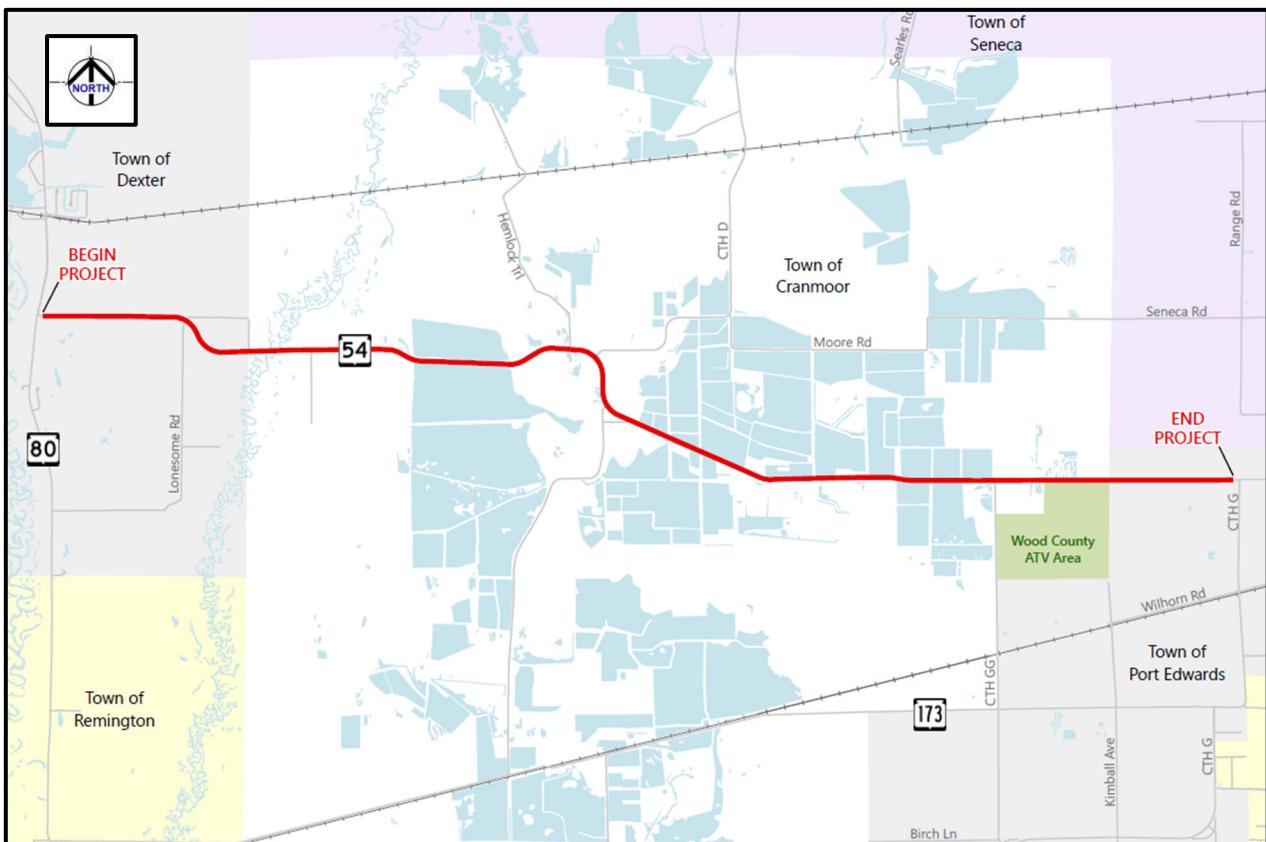
Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community and are welcomed and appreciated throughout the design process.

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 54 in the towns of Dexter, Cranmoor and Port Edwards.

(WIS 54 Project Limits)



Project purpose and need

The existing pavement was last resurfaced in 2012. Sections of WIS 54 were also reconstructed in 2016 from Lonesome Road to Smith Lane and near County D. The existing pavement is deteriorating with cracking and rutting throughout. Additional needs include:

- Deteriorating and outdated guardrail
- Deteriorating drainage culverts

Proposed improvements

The following improvements are proposed to address the project needs.

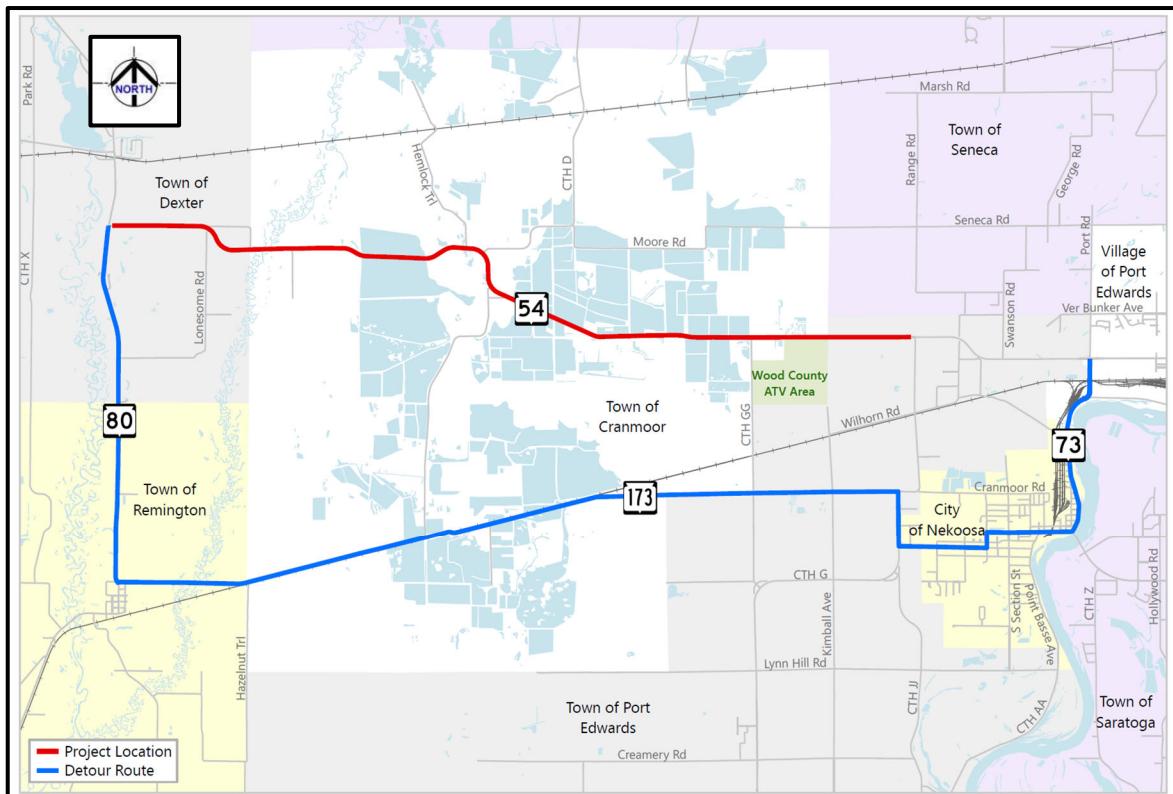
- Resurfacing the asphalt pavement
- Repaving the existing 3-foot paved shoulder and maintain shoulder rumble strips where present
- Replacing approximately 40 culverts including cranberry grower-supplied flow control structures, where present
- Replacing guardrails at one existing bridge and one existing box culvert
- Removing guardrail at one existing box culvert where it is no longer needed
- Installing new pavement marking

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2028 and 2029.

- Work will be completed under detour in 2028 to replace the culverts.
 - The posted detour route will be WIS 80 to WIS 173 to WIS 73.
- In 2029, the roadway will be open during construction under flagging operations to complete paving and guardrail work.
- The project will maintain local and emergency traffic.
- Motorists can expect some delays to occur.

(WIS 54 Detour Route)



Real estate

Highway easements and temporary easements are required for the project.

- Minor spot highway easements are required for drainage pipes
- Temporary easements for pipe and guardrail replacements

Maintenance agreements will be prepared with cranberry growers to establish clear limits of future maintenance responsibilities for drainage pipes crossing WIS 54 that are also used for water management for cranberry farming.

Preliminary real estate needs are shown on the exhibit posted on the website.

WisDOT will acquire real estate. Any impacted property owners will be contacted directly during the design process. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisitions in summer 2026.

Project update/next steps

- Data collection and preliminary design development – summer 2023 to fall 2025
- Initial notices sent to property owners and local officials – September 2023
- Cranberry grower meetings – September 2023, August 2024, February 2025, August 2025
- Public Involvement Comment Period – February/March 2026
- Preliminary plans and reports – Spring 2026
- Environmental Document – Spring 2026
- Right of Way Acquisition – Summer 2026 to Fall 2027
- Final plans – November 1, 2027
- Construction – 2028 and 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 **March 13, 2026**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. 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:

Todd Laska
Project Leader
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
715-315-4087
Todd.Laska@dot.wi.gov



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

Public Involvement Comment Form

Project ID 6950-04-04
Dexter - Wisconsin Rapids
WIS 80 to County G
WIS 54, Wood County

Please mail by **March 13, 2026** to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be emailed to Todd.Laska@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.

Fold here

Place
Stamp
Here

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

To mail, fold here and tape.