

# **Public Involvement Meeting Handout**

**WIS 64  
Wisconsin River Bridge B-35-0846  
Lincoln County**

**Project ID: 9000-10-03 / 73**



**5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025  
Merrill City Hall, Council Chambers  
1004 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Merrill, WI 54452**

## Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of public involvement is to:

- Present information regarding the current condition and needs of the bridge.
- Provide information on the scope of the proposed improvements, impacts and timeline.
- Receive input and concerns and answer questions.

A local officials meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025.

The format of the meeting will be a presentation of the project information followed by a question-and-answer session.

## Project Information

WisDOT is proposing to replace the westernmost bridge that carries WIS 64 over the Wisconsin River in Merrill. Built in 1927, the existing bridge is reaching the end of its service life. To maintain a safe crossing on an important state highway in northern Wisconsin, WisDOT is proposing:

- Replacing the bridge and approach pavement.
  - The proposed new structure will have fewer piers, longer spans and increased clearance over the Wisconsin River.
- Widening WIS 64 to 12-foot lanes, 6-foot sidewalk and 4-foot shoulders in the project limits.
- Installing lighting and pavement markings on new structure.

The environmental study, done in coordination with state and federal agencies, has been approved by WisDOT. This outlines potential impacts to the environment, historical sites, local communities and recreation areas. A plan is then developed to mitigate impacts determined in the study. This could include, for example, developing an erosion control plan to protect the Wisconsin River and surrounding wetland areas from sediment and releases into the water. The archaeological study determined there will be no impact to historical or tribal areas of importance.

Construction currently is scheduled for 2028, but work could be completed in 2027 if funding becomes available.

## Proposed Traffic Impacts

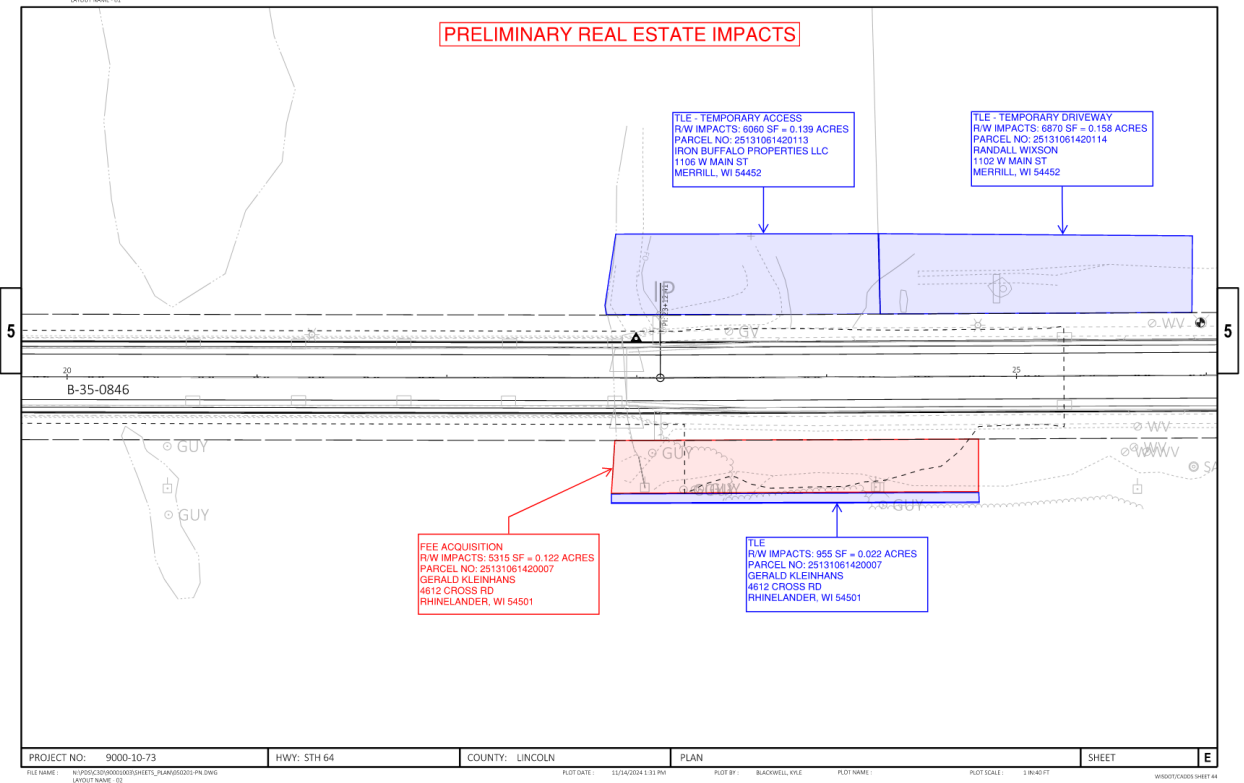
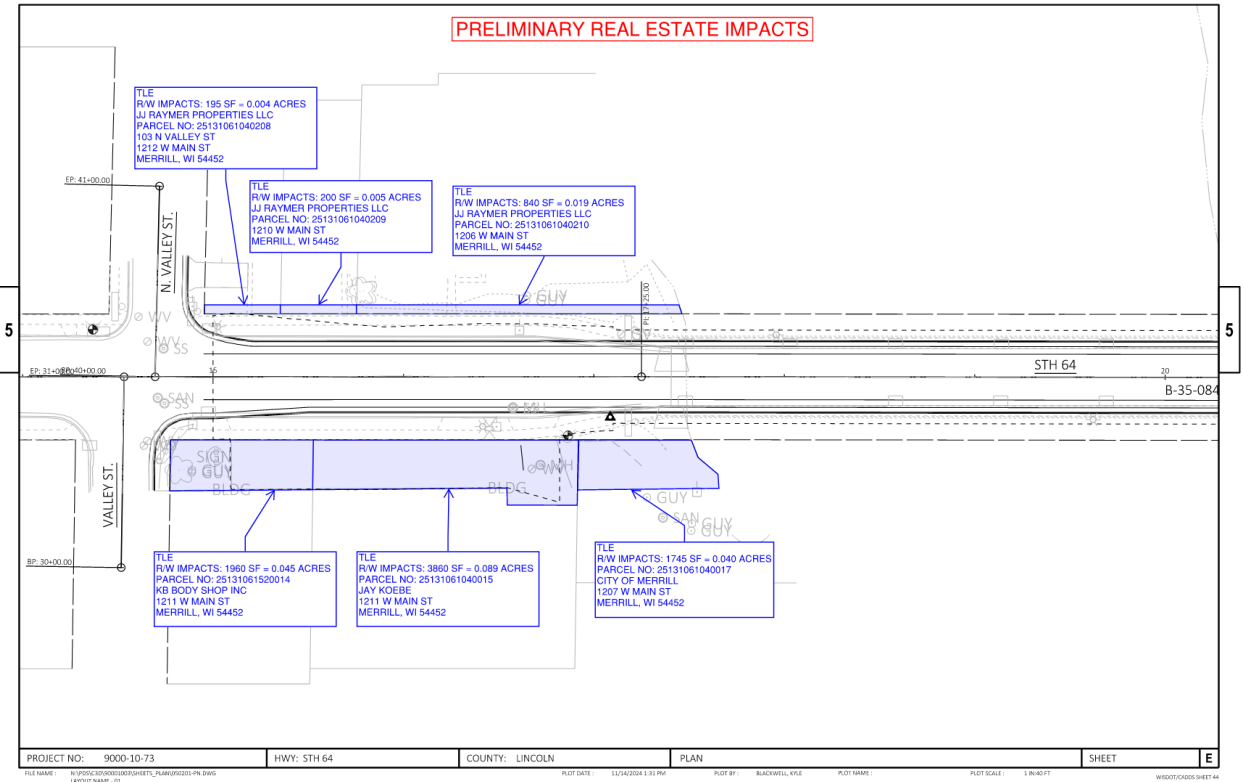
During construction, WIS 64 between the east approach of the bridge and the intersection of Valley Street and WIS 64 on the west end will be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project. Motorists on WIS 64 will be detoured by County K, County Q and County Z. (The route can be seen on the map on the next page.)

In addition, the following will be maintained:

- Access to businesses in the project limits.



WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in spring 2025.



## In This Together

WisDOT created the In This Together program to help businesses navigate construction projects. For tips, tools and resources, please visit: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/in-together/default.aspx>.



## Project update/next steps

Local officials meeting	Jan. 9, 2025
Public involvement	Jan. 21, 2025
Preliminary plans	March 2025
Environmental document	April 2025
Final plans	Feb. 1, 2026
Construction currently scheduled	2028 but could occur as early as 2027

## Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Attached to this handout is a sheet for your written comments and input regarding the proposed project. Please leave your comments in the comment box tonight or mail them by Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, to the address on the back of the comment form. or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also e-mail your comments to the contacts listed below.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Michelle Guoin, P.E.  
WisDOT Project Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
510 N Hanson Lake Road  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
715-365-5792  
[michellem.guoin@dot.wi.gov](mailto:michellem.guoin@dot.wi.gov)

# Public Comment Form

Project ID (9000-10-03)  
Wisconsin River Bridge B-35-0846  
WIS 64 (West Main Street)  
City of Merrill, Lincoln County

# January 2025

Please place this form in the comment box tonight or mail it to the address on the back of this sheet **Jan. 31, 2025**. Comments also can also be emailed to [michellem.guoin@dot.wi.gov](mailto:michellem.guoin@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: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (optional):

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary):

This image shows a blank 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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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

510 Hanson Lake Road

Rhineland, WI 54501

Attn.: Michelle Guoin

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