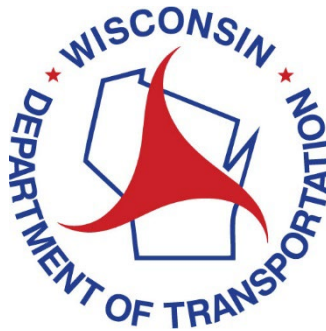


# Public Involvement

**I-94**

**Black River Falls – Tomah  
County O to County EW (Westbound)  
Jackson and Monroe County**

**Project ID: 1026-00-00**



**September/October 2024**

This handout and other items are available on this project's design website at  
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/i94blackriverfalls/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 nine miles of I-94 in Jackson and Monroe 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.

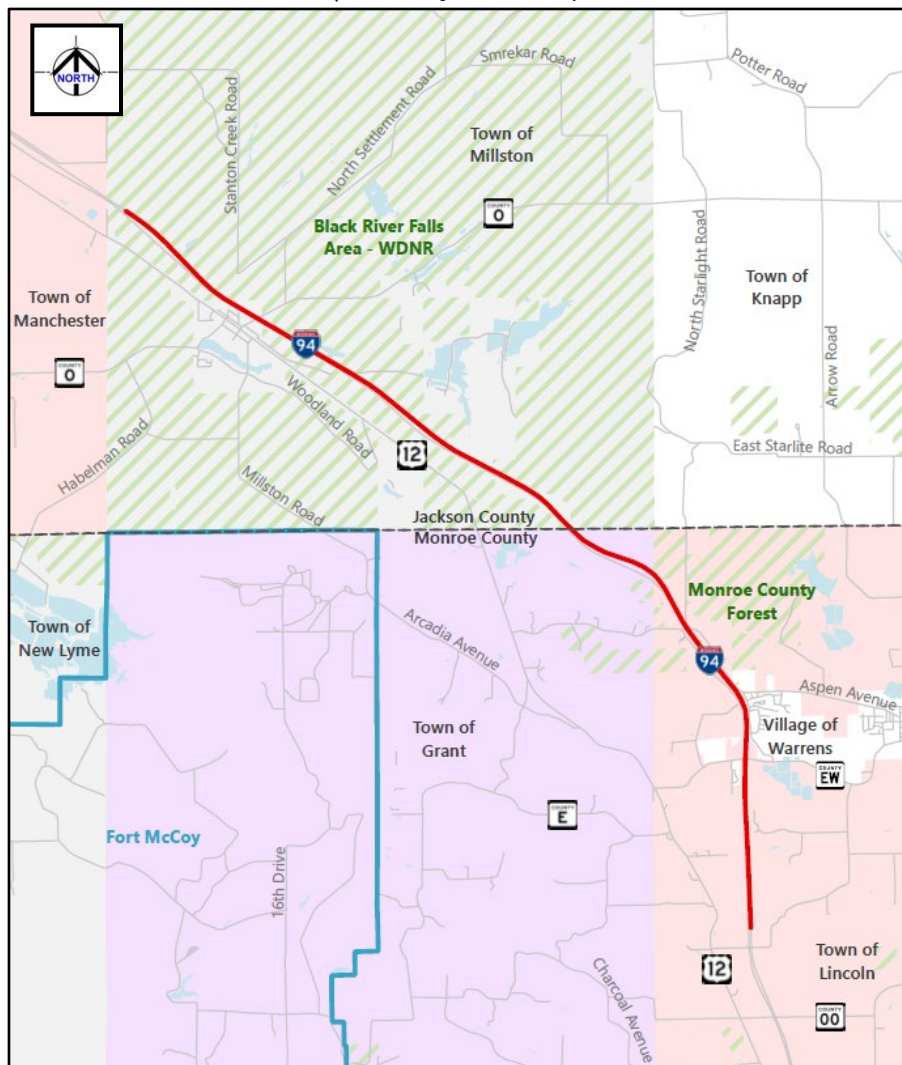
Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community and are welcomed and appreciated throughout the design process.

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 it. Comments may also be submitted via email or phone to the contact listed below.

## Project location

The project is located on I-94 beginning at County O in the Jackson County town of Millston and continues into the towns of Grant and Lincoln and village of Warrens in Monroe County, ending at County EW.

*(I-94 Project Limits)*



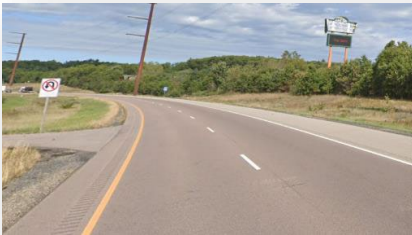
## Project purpose and need

I-94 was originally constructed with new concrete pavement in 1968. In 1981, new concrete pavement was constructed on top of existing pavement. Pavement repairs occurred in 1991 and 2008. Asphaltic overlays were placed in 2009 and 2016.

The roadway is currently exhibiting signs of deterioration in the form of alligator, longitudinal and transverse cracking. Overlays of the existing pavement are no longer feasible due to steepening of the side slopes. The pavement is approaching the end of its service life.

There are other needs that have been identified throughout the project area:

- Deteriorated drainage culverts
- Roadside drainage ditches are filled with sediment
- Deteriorated and outdated guardrail that does not meet current safety standards
- Deteriorated right-of-way fencing along westbound I-94
- Ongoing deterioration on the eastbound and westbound I-94 bridges over County O (concrete pier damage and deterioration of paint on steel girders)
- Ongoing deterioration on the bridge decks on the westbound I-94 bridges over UP RR, Aspen Avenue and County EW



## Proposed improvements

To address the project needs, work would include full depth pavement replacement on westbound I-94 and at the County O and County EW interchanges with pavement improvements planned on the westbound ramps and the local roads between the ramp terminals.

Other improvements include:

- Replacing select culverts and completing repairs/cleaning where required
- Adding riprap (stone to prevent erosion) at outlet of C-27-50 at Rudd Creek
- Replacing guardrail
- Replacing the right-of-way fence along westbound I-94
  - Including measures to address safe wildlife movement in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
  - Increasing the height to help minimize wildlife migration into the highway right of way
  - Lowering height locations to promote wildlife to leave the highway right of way
- Installing ramp gates that will allow closure of ramps in an emergency at County EW entrance ramps
- Replacing select signing and installing new pavement markings
- Repairing the following bridges to extend their service life:
  - Completing concrete pier repairs and painting the girders on east- and westbound bridges (B-27-59/60) over County O
  - Completing polymer overlays on the westbound bridges B-41-63, 65 and 67 over the UP railroad tracks, Aspen Avenue and County EW

## Proposed traffic impacts

### Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2027.

- Work is planned to occur from fall 2027 through spring 2030.
- Construction could begin as early fall 2026 dependent on funding.

### Staging plans will minimize impacts to peak traffic periods.

- I-94 cannot have long-term lane closures after Memorial Day.
- Work will not occur at the County O and County EW interchanges at the same time.
- Other local roads will offer motorists additional options for navigating around the work zone.

#### I-94 Traffic

- I-94 will remain open to traffic under bidirectional traffic – one lane in each direction -- along eastbound I-94.

#### Ramp closures

- Close of westbound ramps at County O and County EW during interchange work
- Post ramp detours during closures
- County O and County EW ramps will not be closed at the same time.

#### County O

- Complete County O pavement reconstruction with one-lane signalized traffic conditions
- Post a detour for vehicles as a short-term closure will be required for some paving operations
- Maintain ATV traffic under I-94 always

#### County EW

- Close and detour County EW during pavement reconstruction

### Proposed stages (subject to favorable weather conditions)

- Stage 1 -- Fall 2027: Temporary work on I-94 with single-lane closures
- Stage 2 -- Spring 2028: Construct I-94 in Jackson County under bidirectional traffic conditions
- Stage 3 -- Summer/fall 2028: Complete County O interchange
- Stage 4 -- Spring 2029: Construct I-94 in Monroe County under bidirectional traffic conditions
- Stage 5 -- Summer/fall 2029: Temporary work on I-94 with single-lane closures
- Stage 6 -- Spring 2030: Complete County EW interchange

## Real estate

Work is anticipated to occur within the existing right of way. New right-of-way fence will be placed inside the existing right of way. If the fencing helps to contain livestock, please contact WisDOT so that we can coordinate with you during replacement of the fence.

## Project schedule

- Data collection – 2022
- Concept plan development and agency coordination – 2023-24
- Local official meeting – Sept. 16, 2024
- Public involvement comment period – Sept. 23 to Oct. 18, 2024
- Environmental document – Winter 2024
- Preliminary plans – Spring 2025
- Final plans – Feb. 1, 2026 (early)
- Business coordination meeting – Spring 2028 (if required)
- Construction – Fall 2027 through spring 2030\*\*

\*\* Construction could begin as early as fall 2026 if funding becomes available.

Additional local and public meetings will be held if necessary.

## **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 18, 2024**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT.
2. Call or email comments or questions to Zach VanOstrand, the project manager. See contact information 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:

Zach VanOstrand, P.E.  
WisDOT Consultant Project Manager  
(612) 427-2838  
[Zach.VanOstrand@peservicesmn.com](mailto:Zach.VanOstrand@peservicesmn.com)

**\*\*SCROLL DOWN FOR THE COMMENT FORM\*\***



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)

Project ID 1026-00-00  
Black River Falls - Tomah  
County O to County EW (Westbound)  
I-94  
Jackson and Monroe Counties

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting 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.*



Fold here

---

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
718 W. Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Attn.: Christena O'Brien

---

To mail, fold here and tape.