

# Public Involvement

**US 2  
Superior – Wentworth  
Branch Middle River Culvert  
Douglas County**

**Project ID: 1180-00-11**



**February 2025**

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

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us2branchmiddleriver/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 replacement of the culvert at the branch of the Middle River in the village of Poplar. 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 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.

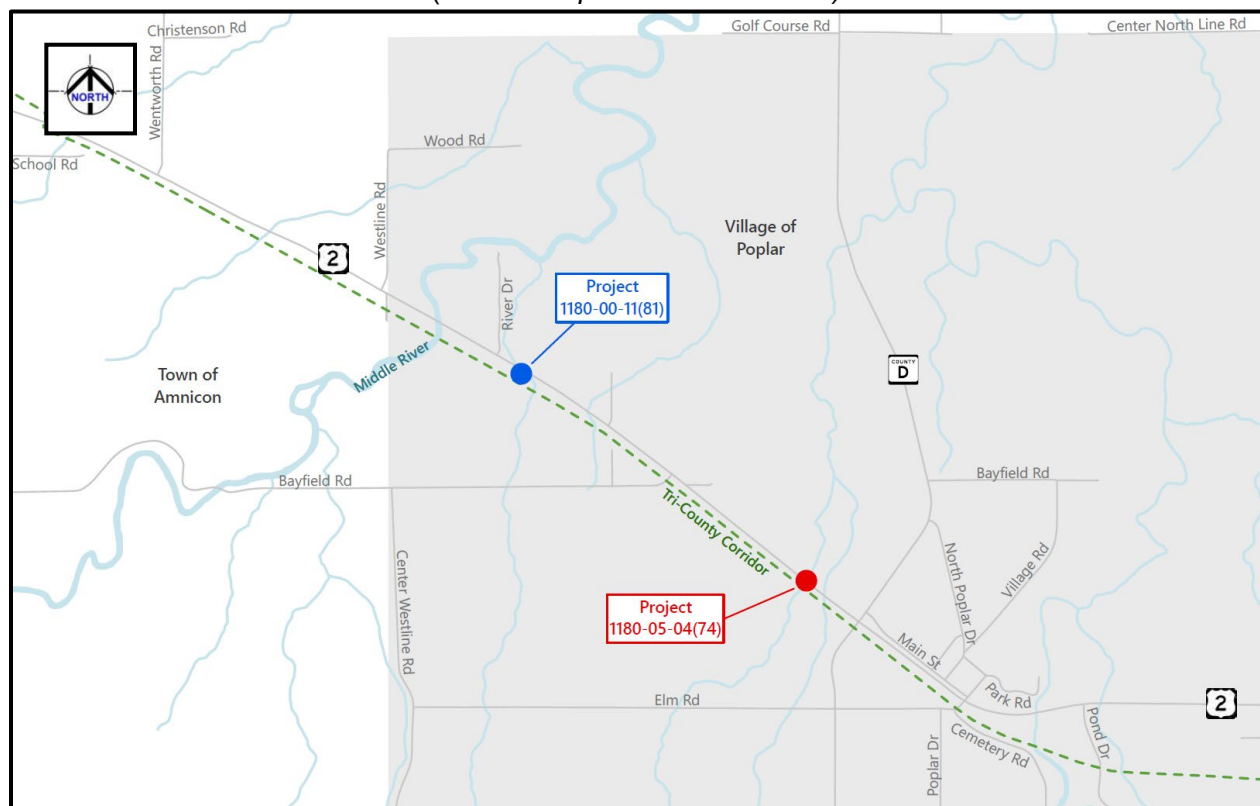
## Project location

The project is in the village of Poplar just east of River Road.

The project will be constructed with Project ID 1180-00-04(74) to replace the culvert at the unnamed drainage way west of County D (<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us2poplar/default.aspx>).

The two culvert projects are proposed to be completed at the same time to minimize roadway and trail traffic impacts.

*(Culvert Replacement Location)*



## Project purpose and need

There is a concrete arch culvert under the Tri-County Corridor Trail connected to a 6-foot metal pipe under US 2 with a partial concrete box culvert (C-16-0099). The entire bottom has washed out of the concrete arch pipe and the metal pipe under US 2 is rusted with erosion at the outlet end. The entire culvert system is deteriorated and beyond repair.

These culverts must be addressed to ensure that US 2 and the Tri-County Corridor Trail will continue to safely carry roadway and recreational traffic.

## Proposed improvements

The proposed improvements would include:

- Remove existing culvert system under US 2 and the trail
- Install a new culvert under US 2 and the trail to safely pass a 100-year storm event
  - The culvert will be installed on a new alignment and the proposed improvements will address ongoing erosion at the culvert.
  - The project includes construction of an outlet channel along the north side of US 2 to address environmental requirements.
- Replace the living snow fence along the north side of US 2 that is impacted by the project.
  - The living snow fence aids in reducing snow drifting across US 2.
  - Additional information on living snow fence is available here:  
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/hwy-mnt/winter-maintenance/living-snow-fence.aspx>
- Restore the impacted pavement and trail surfaces.

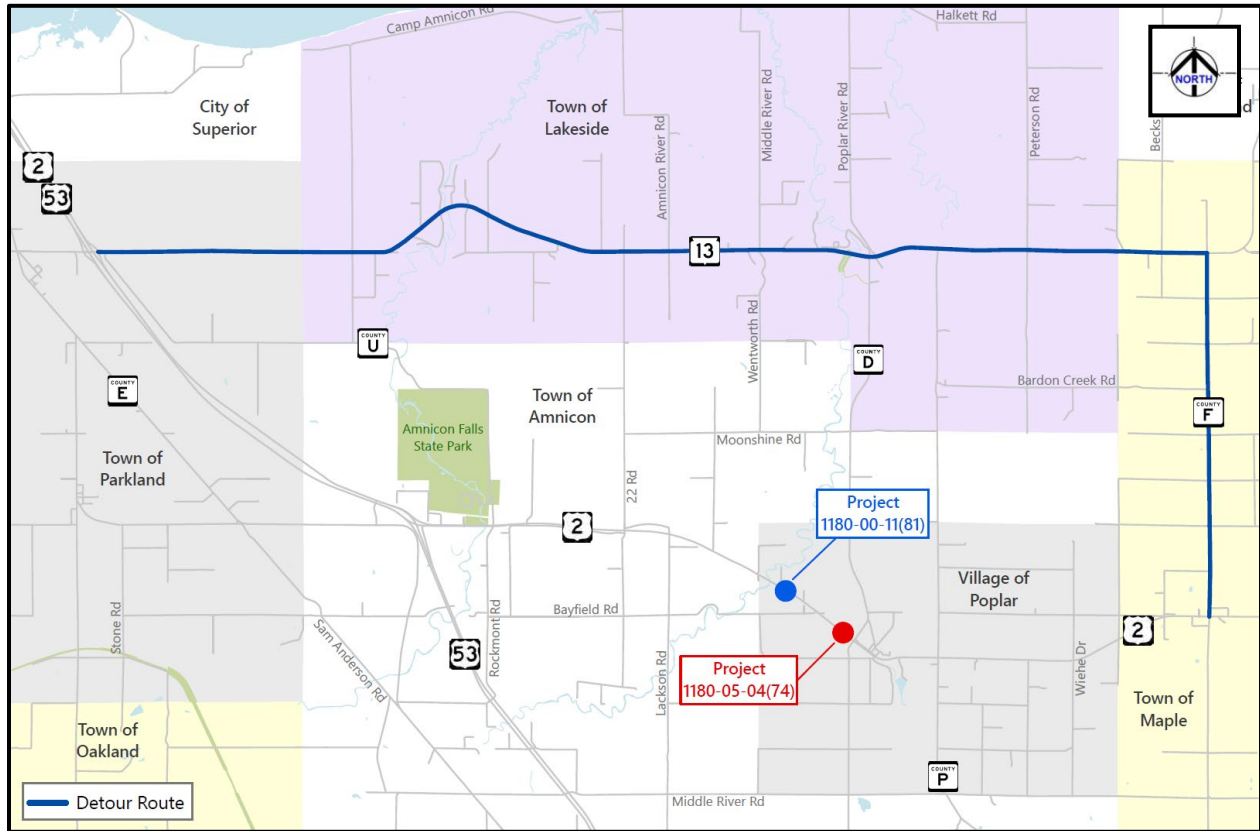
## Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2027.

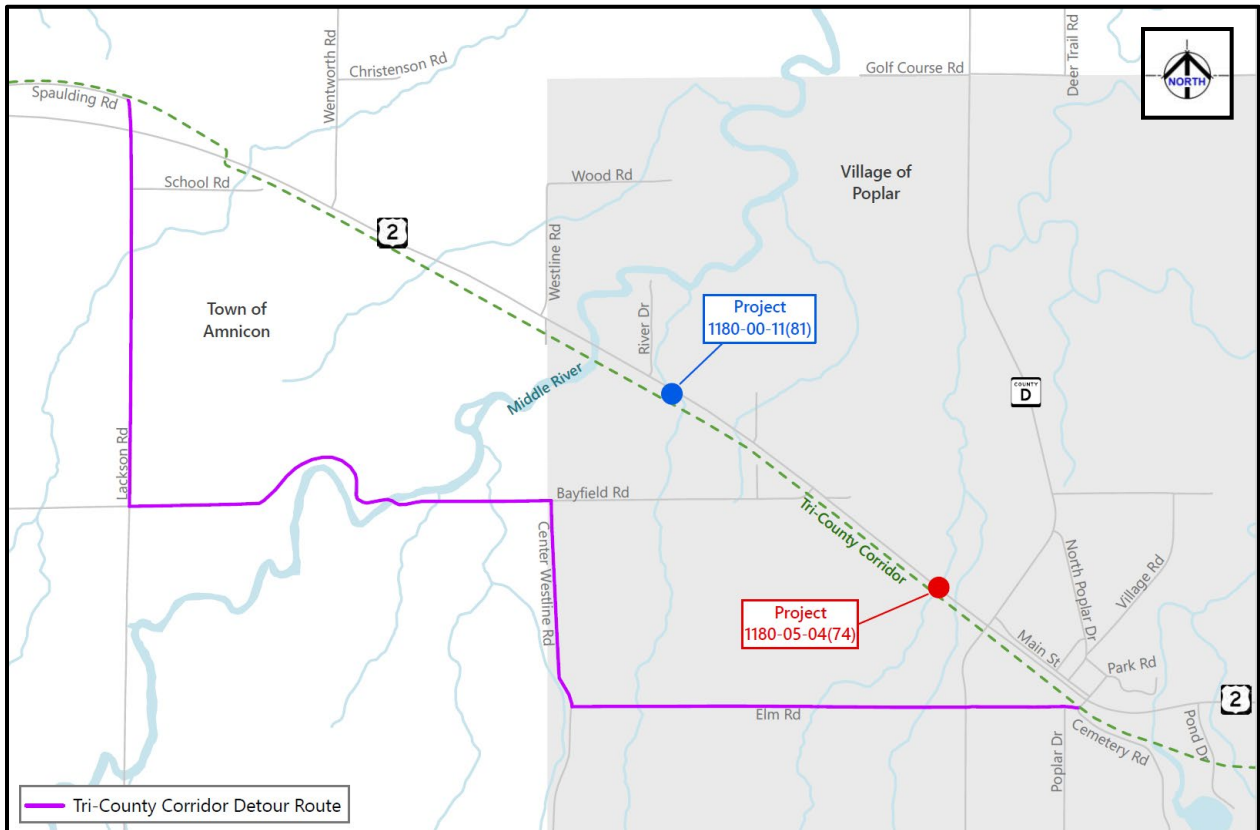
- Traffic will be maintained on US 2 during construction except a short-term detour is planned during pipe replacement under the roadway.
  - US 2 traffic will be detoured on County F and WIS 13.
  - The anticipated detour is proposed to be in place for two to three weeks.
  - The property owners between the culverts will be required to use local routes to access US 2 during the detour timeframe.
- The Tri-County Corridor Trail will be detoured during construction.
  - The proposed detour is anticipated to be Lackson Road to Bayfield Road to Center West Line Road to Elm Road.
- Local and emergency access will be maintained to adjacent properties.
- Work is anticipated to occur between May and August.
- All work is dependent upon favorable weather conditions.

*(See US 2 and Tri-County Corridor trail detour route maps on the following page.)*

(US 2 Detour Route Map)



(Tri-County Corridor Trail Detour Route Map)



## Real estate

The project will require new land interests to accommodate the culvert replacement. This will include areas of new right-of-way (fee) along the north side of US 2 from one property owner.

WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in fall 2025. Direct mailings and coordination will occur with the impacted property owner. A landowner rights brochure is available for review on the project website.

## Project schedule

- Data collection – 2023
- Concept plan development and agency coordination – 2024
- Local official meeting – Feb. 11. 2025
- Public involvement comment period – February/March 2025
- Environmental document – Spring 2025
- Preliminary plans – Spring 2025
- Final right-of-way plat – Summer 2025
- Right-of-way acquisition – Summer 2025 to Spring 2026
- Final plans – May 1, 2026
- Construction – Summer 2027

## 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 7, 2025**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT
2. Call or email comments or questions to Jeff Olson, the project supervisor; 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:

Jeff Olson  
WisDOT Project Supervisor  
(715) 395-3032  
[jeffrey.olson@dot.wi.gov](mailto:jeffrey.olson@dot.wi.gov)

**\*\*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 1180-00-11  
Superior – Wentworth  
Branch Middle River Culvert  
US 2, Douglas County

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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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

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
1701 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Superior, WI 54880  
Attn.: Jeff Olson

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To mail, fold here and tape.