

Public Involvement

**US 53
New Auburn - Spooner
Bridge Painting B-03-0037,0038,0047,0057
Barron County**

Project ID: 1195-06-33



Summer 2025

This handout and other items are available on this project's design website at
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/us53bridgepainting/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 maintenance of four US 53 bridges in Barron 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.

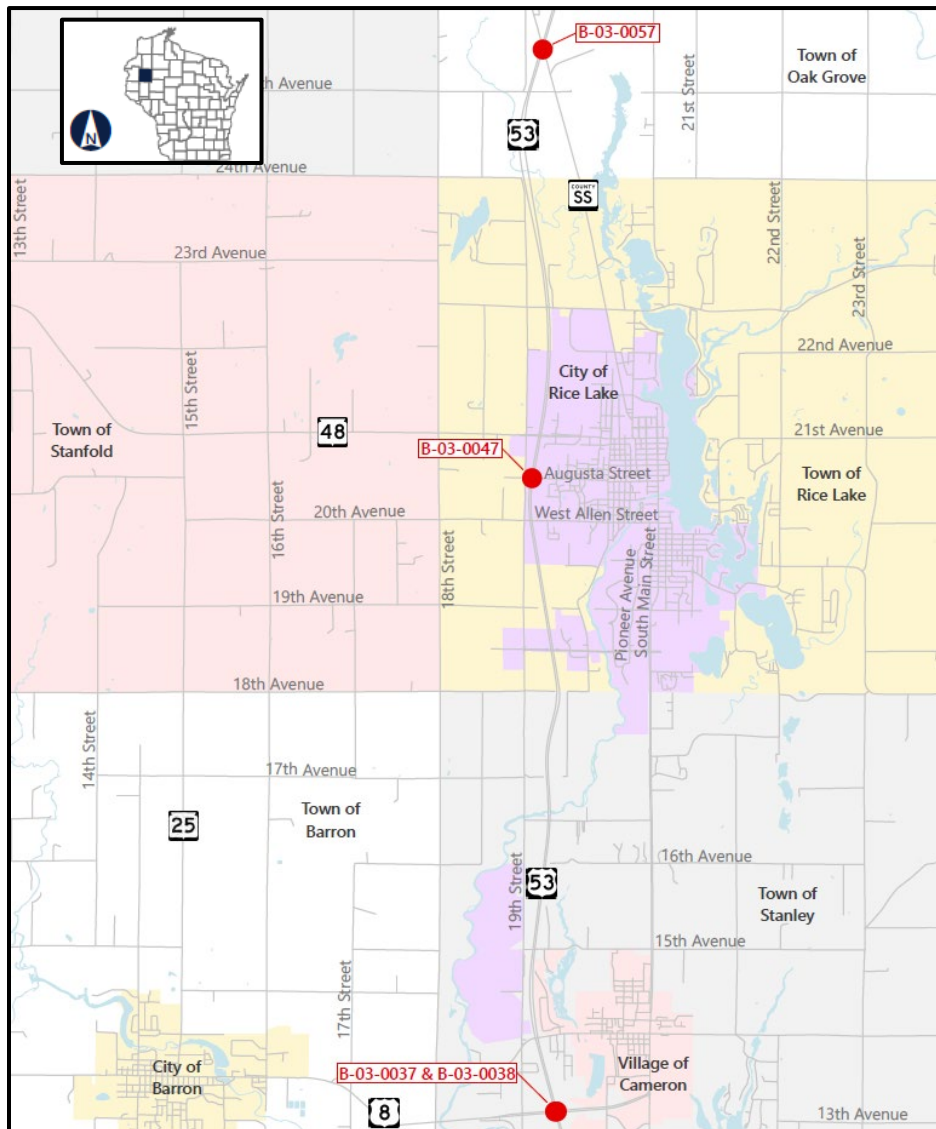
Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community and are welcomed and appreciated throughout the design process.

Included at the end of this handout 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 in the city of Rice Lake and the towns of Oak Grove and Stanley.

(PROJECT LOCATION)



Project purpose and need

The four existing bridges were constructed between 1972 and 1984. The bridges are experiencing deterioration on the paint on the steel girders (beams) and bearings. The deterioration of the paint can lead to rusting and early failure of the structural steel components if it is not protected with paint.

The guardrail at the bridge sites is deteriorated and does not meet current design standards.

Proposed improvements

The purpose of the project is to address deteriorated paint on the bridges and update the guardrail.

The proposed improvements would include:

B-03-0037: US 53 southbound over US 8 and B-03-0038: US 53 northbound over US 8

- Clean and paint bridge girders (beams) and bearings
- Replace guardrail within the US 8 median

B-03-0047: Augusta Street over US 53

- Clean and paint bridge girders and bearings
- Replace guardrail within the US 53 median

B-03-0057: US 53 northbound over County SS / Wild Rivers Trail

- Clean and paint bridge girders
- Replace guardrail on the east side of County SS

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2028.

B-03-0037: US 53 southbound over US 8 and B-03-0038: US 53 northbound over US 8

- US 53 will remain open to traffic with periodic single-lane closures.
- US 8 will remain open to traffic with single-lane closures.

B-03-0047: Augusta Street over US 53

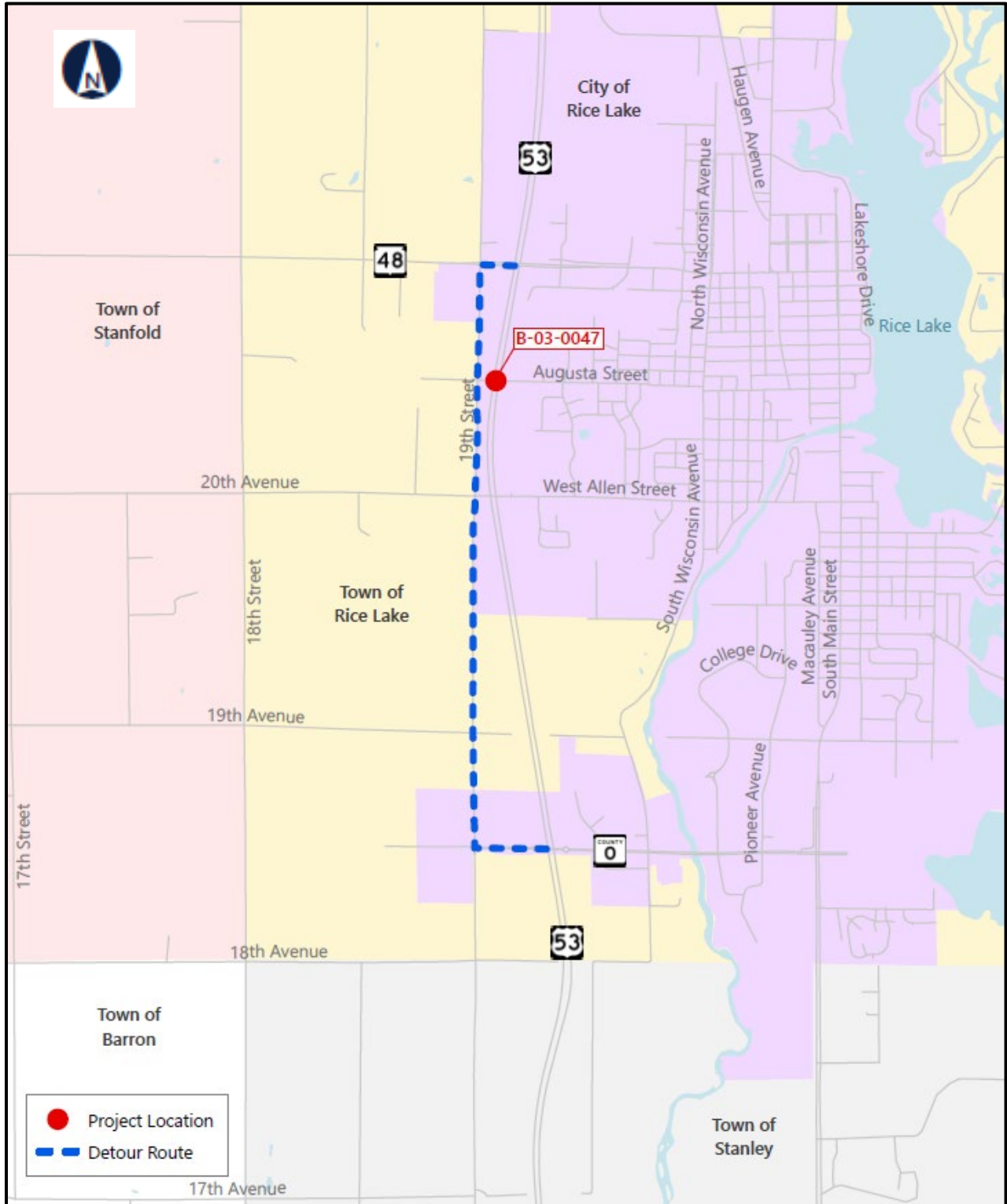
- US 53 will remain open to traffic with single-lane closures.
- Augusta Street will be closed to accommodate contractor access. (The work will occur when school is not in session.)
- During a portion of the work on this bridge, the WIS 48 southbound entrance ramp to US 53 will be closed. Traffic will be detoured along West 19th Street to County O (see map).

B-03-0057: US 53 northbound over County SS / Wild Rivers Trail

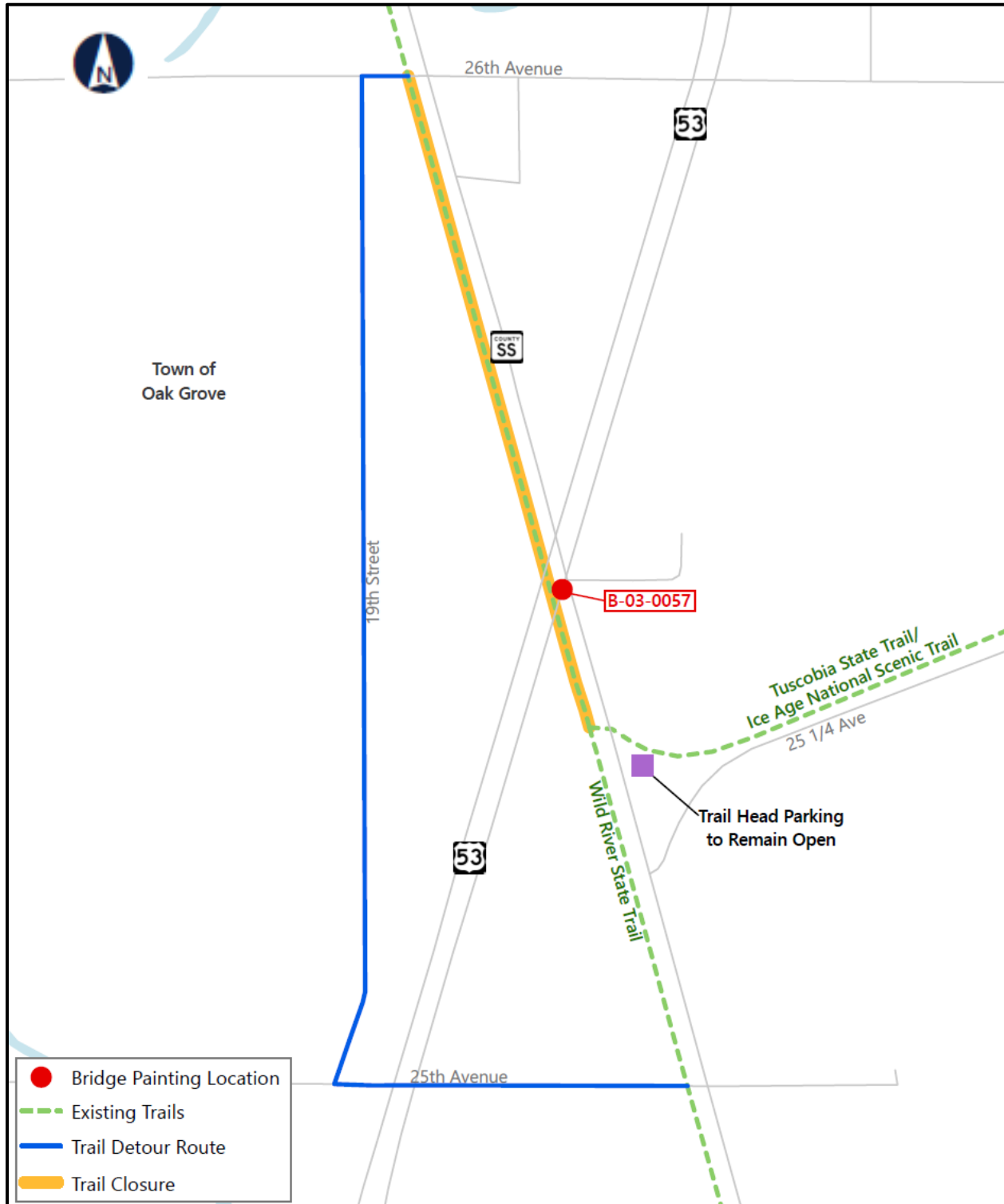
- US 53 will remain open to traffic with periodic single-lane closures.
- During work over County SS, one lane of traffic on County SS controlled by temporary traffic signals will be maintained.
- During work over the Wild Rivers State Trail/Ice Age Trail, traffic on local roads from 25th Avenue to 19th Street to 26th Avenue will be detoured (see map).

Construction is anticipated to take approximately three months, pending favorable weather.

(WIS 48 SOUTHBOUND ENTRANCE RAMP TO US 53 DETOUR ROUTE)



(TRAIL DETOUR ROUTE)



Real estate

All work is planned to occur inside the existing highway right of way except at the US 53 bridges over the Wild Rivers State Trail and County SS.

Project schedule

- Data collection – 2024
- Initial project notification – January 2025
- Preliminary plans – spring 2025
- Public comment period – August 2025
- Approve environmental document – fall 2025
- Preliminary plans approved – fall 2025
- Final plans – November 2027
- Project bidding – February 2028
- Construction – 2028

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 **Aug. 29, 2025**:

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this handout and mail it to WisDOT.
2. Call or email comments or questions to Andrew Peterson, 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:

Andrew Peterson, P.E.
WisDOT Consultant Project Manager
(608) 792-6851
apeterson@correinc.com

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****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
- 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

ID 1195-06-33
New Auburn - Spooner
Bridge Painting B-03-0037,0038,0047,0057
US 53
Barron County

Please mail this form to the address on the back of this sheet by **Aug. 29, 2025**. Comments can also be emailed to apeterson@correinc.com. 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 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 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.

Fold here

Place
Stamp
Here

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
W7102 Green Valley Road
Spooner, WI 54801
Attn.: Matthew VanNatta

To mail, fold here and tape.