

# **Public Involvement Meeting Handout**

**WIS 29  
County X Bridge (B-09-0314)  
Chippewa County**

**Project ID: 1050-00-12/82**



**Nov. 20, 2024  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Lafayette Town Hall  
5765 197<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

## **Purpose of the meeting**

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the bridge over WIS 29 that is part of the eastbound WIS 29 exit ramp to County X in the Chippewa County town of Lafayette, provide details about the proposed construction project and obtain public input.

Built in 1966, the existing bridge is nearing the end of its service life and needs to be replaced to maintain safety and mobility for the traveling public.

## **Project information**

WisDOT is proposing to improve 0.424 mile of the County X eastbound ramp. Proposed improvements include:

- Removal and replacement of the existing bridge over WIS 29.
- Replacement of the approach pavement on either side of the bridge.
- Replacement of guardrail on the bridge approaches and in the WIS 29 median.
- Replacement of culvert pipes under the County X eastbound ramp.
- Completion of pavement marking, erosion control and any other necessary incidentals.

### **Safety and Overall Benefits:**

- The new bridge will provide safe travel movements.
- The project will increase the vertical height of the structure over WIS 29 to meet current requirements.
- New pavement approaches on either side of the bridge will provide a better ride quality.
- Guardrail will be updated to meet current standards (i.e., crash tested, connected to the bridge concrete rail, extended to protect steep slopes not currently protected).
- New culvert pipes will maintain a functioning drainage system.

### **Reasons for Improvements:**

- The existing structure is showing signs of deterioration that can no longer be addressed by routine maintenance projects.
- Existing guardrail on the bridge approaches does not meet current requirements.
- The existing culvert pipe joints are separating creating standing water and soil falling into sections of the pipes.

WisDOT chose these improvements because of the age and existing condition of the site facilities, safety concerns regarding the existing structures if not addressed and increased future costs if not appropriately addressed.

### **Status of Studies/Surveys:**

- Mapping Survey - Completed
- Historical and Archaeological Studies - Completed
- Environmental Study – Ongoing
- Design Study – Ongoing

PROJECT LIMITS  
1050-00-12/-82

Lake Wissota

178

176TH ST

172ND ST

50TH AVE

40TH AVE

35TH AVE

29

N

MAP NOT TO SCALE

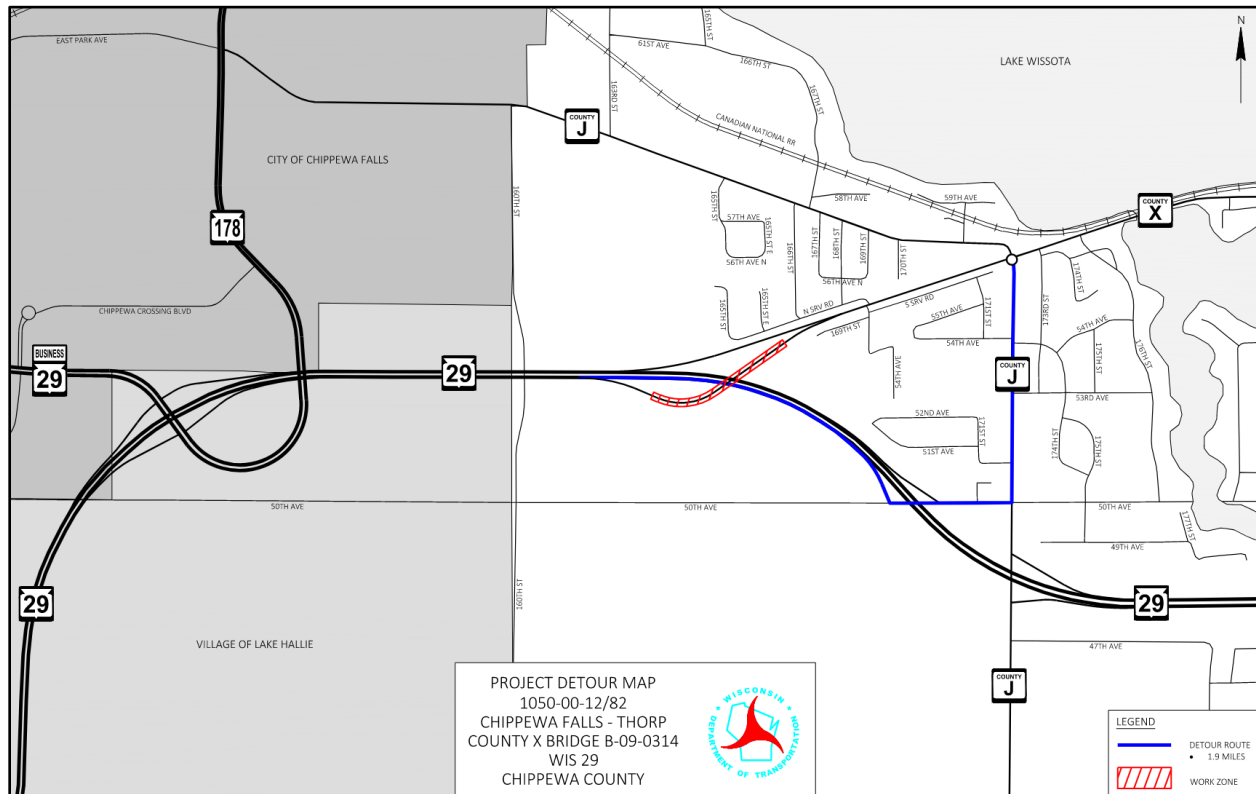
PROJECT LOCATION  
TOWN OF LAFAYETTE  
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

DESIGN PROJECT ID: 1050-00-12  
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ID: 1050-00-82  
CHIPPEWA FALLS - THORP  
COUNTY X BRIDGE B-09-0314  
WIS 29  
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the spring of 2028 and finish in the fall of 2028. During construction, the County X ramp to westbound WIS 29 will remain open. However, the eastbound WIS 29 exit ramp (Exit 80) and the County X bridge will be closed to traffic. The proposed detour sends eastbound WIS 29 traffic wanting to access County X to the WIS 29/50<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Stillson Road interchange (Exit 81), where motorists take 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue east to County J north to get to County X.

The detour is 1.9 miles in length and is expected to add one minute of additional travel time to the County X/County J intersection.

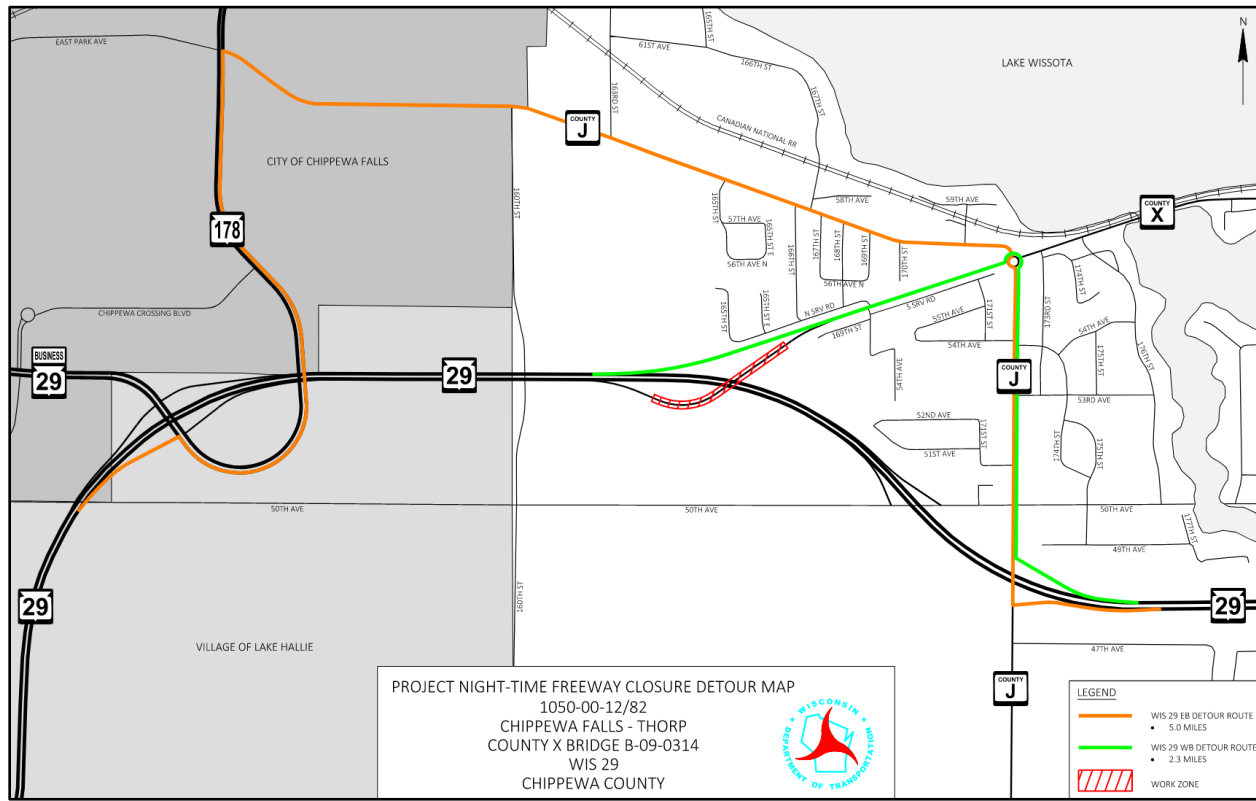
## County X Bridge B-09-0314 Project Detour Map



In addition, critical bridge work is expected to require full freeway closure of WIS 29 during nighttime work operations only. These closures will be used only as needed and kept to a minimum. WIS 29 traffic will be detoured during these operations. The nighttime detour sends:

- Eastbound WIS 29 traffic to the WIS 178/Business WIS 29 interchange (Exit 79) to WIS 178 north to Park Avenue/County J east.
  - The WIS 29 eastbound on-ramp from WIS 178/Business WIS 29 will be closed during this time.
  - The eastbound WIS 29 detour is five miles in length and is expected to add six minutes of additional travel time to the WIS 29 eastbound on-ramp merge from County J.
- Westbound WIS 29 to the County J interchange (Exit 81) to County J north to County X west.
  - The WIS 29 westbound on-ramp from 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Stillson Road will be closed during this time.
  - The westbound WIS 29 detour is 2.3 miles in length and is expected to add three minutes of additional travel time to the WIS 29 westbound on-ramp merge from County X.

## County X Bridge B-09-0314 Full Freeway Closure Detour Map



During peak travel times, both lanes of traffic on WIS 29, in both directions, will be open to traffic in the work zone. During nonpeak travel times, one lane of traffic on WIS 29, in both directions, will be open to traffic in the work zone.

Temporary driveway/entrance closures or changes to property access are not required.

Construction is currently scheduled for 2028.

## Real estate

Additional right of way is not expected for this project.

## Project update/next steps

### Project Schedule

Local Officials Meeting #1  
Public Involvement Meeting #1  
Environmental Document  
Design Study Report  
Local Officials Meeting #2

Nov. 13, 2024  
Nov. 20, 2024  
July 2025  
October 2025  
TBD (early 2026)

Public Involvement Meeting #2	TBD (early 2026)
Utility Coordination	July 2026
Agency Coordination (DNR, etc.)	Ongoing to April 2027
Final Plans Due	May 2027
Construction Public Involvement Meeting	TBD – Prior to Start of Construction
Construction	Spring – Fall 2028

## 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 mail any written comments about the project before Dec. 4, 2024, or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also email 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:

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## Public Involvement Meeting Comment Form

Project ID 1050-00-12/82  
WIS 29  
County X Bridge B-09-0314  
Chippewa County

Nov. 20, 2024

Please place this form in the comment box or mail by Dec. 4, 2024, to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be e-mailed to [james.rinzel@dot.wi.gov](mailto:james.rinzel@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 single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. 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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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
718 W. Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701-5108  
Attn.: James Rinzel

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