

Public Involvement

**WIS 64
Bloomer – Cornell
Chippewa River Bridge B-9-87
Chippewa County**

Project ID: 8190-00-04



Summer 2025

This handout and other items are available on this project's design website at
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/wis64chippewariverbridge/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 the WIS 64 bridge in Chippewa 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.

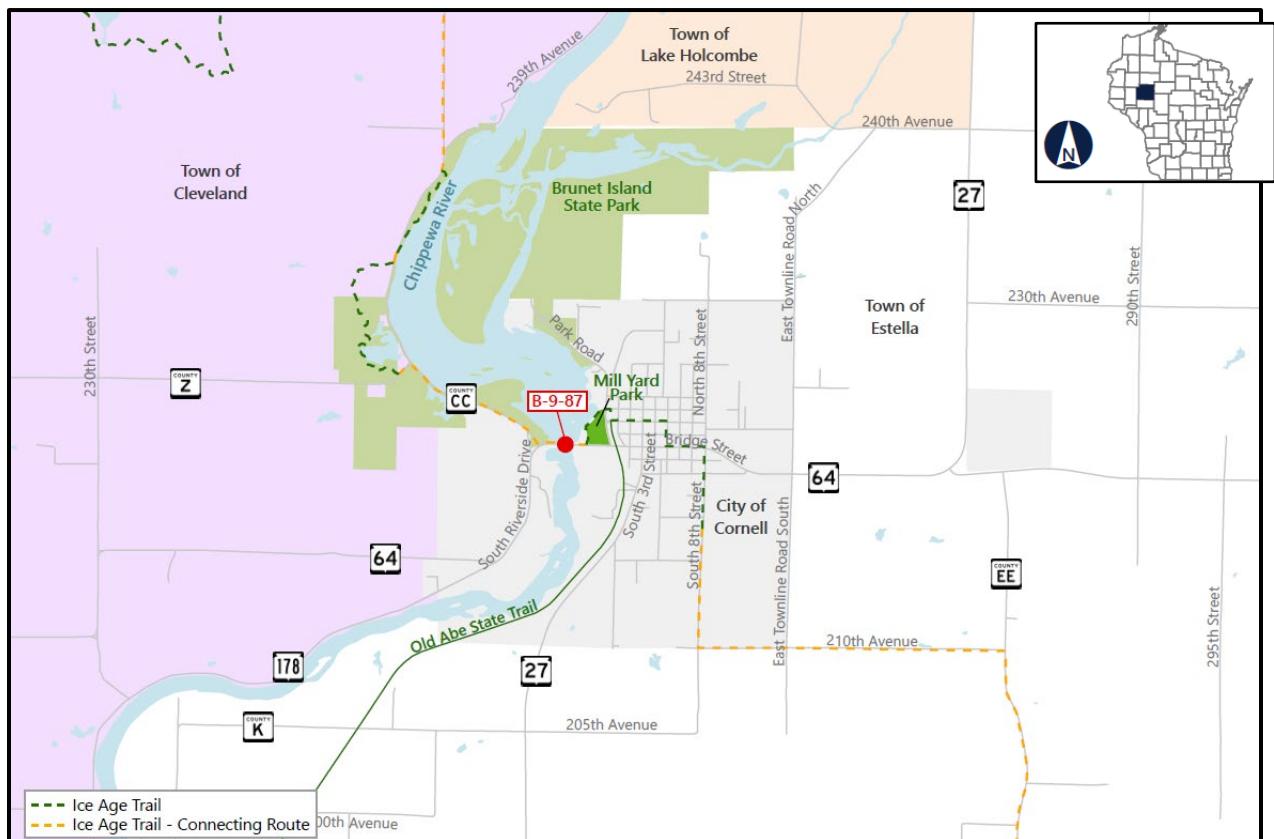
Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community and are welcomed and appreciated throughout the design process.

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 in the city of Cornell.

(Project Location)



Project purpose and need

The existing single-span tied-arch (truss) bridge was constructed in 1971. The bridge deck has been overlaid with new concrete and other structural repairs have been made since the original construction.

The bridge is experiencing deterioration on the paint on the steel tie girders (beams along the side of the bridge that support the truss). 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 on the east side of the bridge is deteriorated and does not meet current design standards.

Proposed improvements

The project would address deteriorated paint on the bridge and roadway guardrail.

The proposed improvements would include:

- Spot painting of the tie girders (beams on the side of bridge) matching the existing color
- Replacing guardrail on the east end of the bridge
- Replacing sidewalk at spot locations to accommodate the new guardrail

Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is currently scheduled for 2030 and could be advanced to 2029, pending funding.

- Traffic will be shifted across the bridge to maintain two lanes of traffic.
- Periodic single-lane closures will occur during work hours.
- Pedestrians will be maintained across the bridge during construction.

Construction is anticipated to take up to two months, pending favorable weather.

Historic evaluations

To meet federal requirements, the existing truss bridge will be evaluated during design for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. If you have any comments on the potential historic aspects of the bridge, please provide your comments.

Real estate

All work will occur inside the existing highway right of way.

Project schedule

- Data collection – 2024
- Initial project notification – Jan. 2025
- Preliminary plans – spring 2025
- Local officials meeting – Aug. 14, 2025
- Public comment period – Aug./Sept. 2025
- Approve environmental document – winter 2025
- Preliminary plans approved – summer 2026
- Final plans – May 2028
- Project bidding – September 2029 (scheduled)
- Construction – 2030*

*** Project could be advanced to 2029 construction, pending funding**

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 **Sept. 12, 2025**:

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

Bill Biesmann, P.E.
WisDOT Consultant Project Manager
(608) 310-3286
bbiesmann@klengineering.com



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

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

ID 8190-00-04
Bloomer - Cornell
Chippewa River Bridge B-9-87
WIS 64
Chippewa 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.

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.