

Public Involvement

**WIS 98
Greenwood – Spencer
Bear Creek Bridge B-10-0252
Clark County**

Project ID: 7040-00-03



January/February 2025

This handout and other items are available on this project's design website at
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nw/wis98bearcreek/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 Bear Creek Bridge in the Clark County city of Loyal. 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 in the city of Loyal along WIS 98 just east of County K.

(Bridge Replacement Location)



Project purpose and need

The existing bridge was constructed in 1920. The structure was rehabilitated in 1935, 1976, 1985 and 1986. It has deteriorated beyond economical repair.

There are existing sidewalks along WIS 98 south of the project area with no connectivity across the existing bridge. Recent and planned developments along WIS 98 have experienced an increase in pedestrians walking along the rural shoulders of WIS 98 across Bear Creek.

Proposed improvements

The WIS 98 bridge over Bear Creek will be replaced. The proposed improvements would include:

- Removing existing structure B-10-0053
- Constructing a new single-span concrete bridge B-10-0252 with sidewalks
- Constructing approach pavement on both sides of the bridge to accommodate bridge drainage and a smooth ride onto the new bridge
- Removing the existing guardrail

Sidewalk Limits

The proposed project includes sidewalks on both sides of the roadway from WIS 98/County K to the east end of the bridge.

The project evaluated the possible extension of the sidewalk along the north side of WIS 98 to the Dollar General driveway with the city of Loyal. Additional sidewalk east of the bridge would require local funding by the city of Loyal. At this time, the city did not have available funds, and no additional sidewalk is planned with the project.

The sidewalks across the bridge would accommodate future sidewalk to the east if the city desired to add them in the future.

Proposed traffic impacts

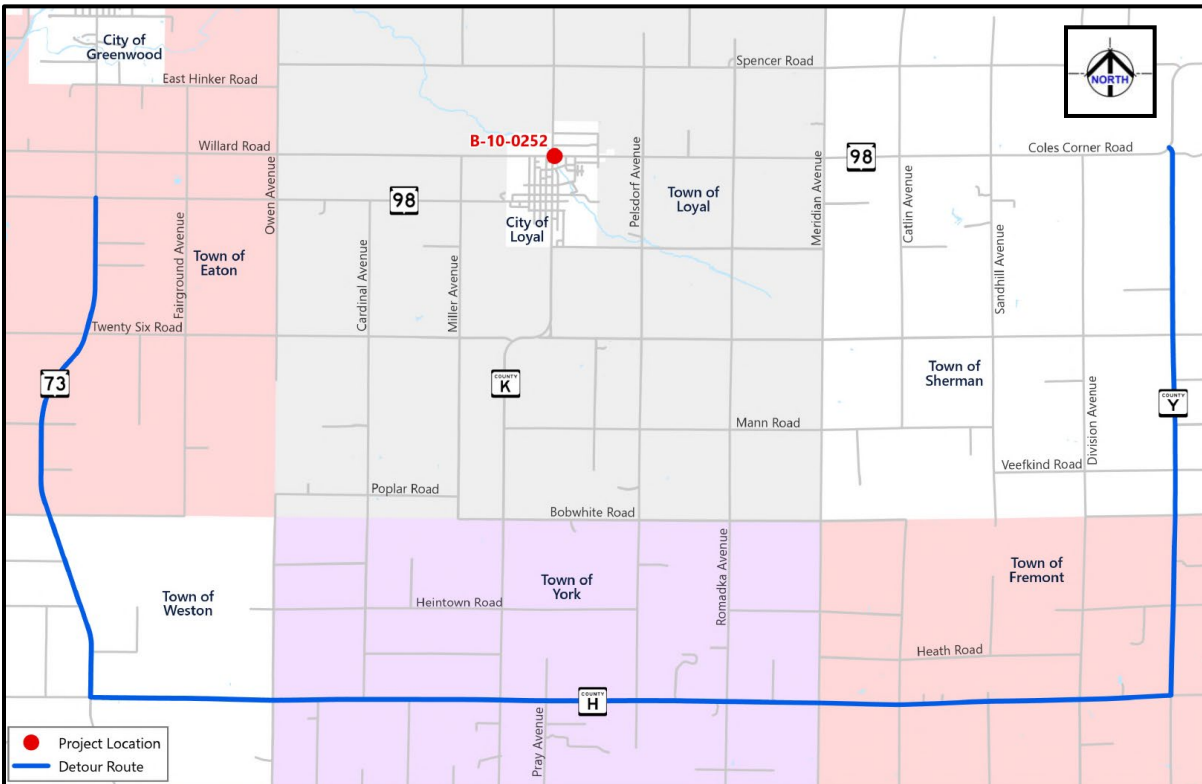
Construction is currently scheduled for 2027.

- Due to environmental restrictions, work cannot occur in Bear Creek until June 15. Work would be completed prior to Sept. 15 to provide access to the cooperative driveway during harvest.
- All work is dependent upon favorable weather conditions.

WIS 98 traffic will be detoured along WIS 73 to County H to County Y. Local and emergency traffic can use city streets for alternative access around the bridge site.

(See detour route map on the following page.)

(Detour Route Map)



Real estate

The project will require new land interests to accommodate the new bridge. This will include areas of new right-of-way (fee) and temporary (temporary limited easement) land acquisitions. WisDOT expects to begin real estate acquisition in summer 2025. Direct mailings and coordination will occur with impacted property owners. A landowner rights brochure is available for review on the project website.

Project schedule

- Data collection – 2023
- Concept plan development and agency coordination – 2023
- Local official meeting – Aug. 31, 2023
- Public involvement comment period – January/February 2025
- Environmental document – Winter 2025
- Preliminary plans – Spring 2025
- Final right-of-way plat – Spring 2025
- Right-of-way acquisition – May 2025 to May 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 **Feb. 24, 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 Saxby, 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:

Jeff Saxby, P.E.
WisDOT Consultant Project Manager
(920) 380-2805
jsaxby@sehinc.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
- 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

Project ID 7040-00-03
Greenwood – Spencer
Bear Creek Bridge B-10-0252
WIS 98, Clark County

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.