

Public Involvement Meeting Handout

**WIS 35
La Crosse - Trempealeau
Tank Creek Bridge B-61-19
Black River Bridges B-32-16 & B-32-18
Trempealeau & La Crosse Counties**

Project ID: (7140-00-01 & 7140-00-02)



**November 13, 2024
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Village of Trempealeau Hall**

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the proposed projects is to preserve the function, operation and safety of WIS 35 between Holmen and Trempealeau. This project includes replacement of three bridges built in 1953 that show signs of structural decay in concrete and steel elements of the structures.

This meeting is being held to explain the need for the project and discuss alternatives being considered for traffic impacts during the construction of the proposed project, comparing alternatives for full closure and maintenance of traffic during construction.

The meeting will consist of a presentation by design project staff, followed by a portion of group question and answer. Following the group question and answer, project staff will be available to talk to individuals in an open house format.

WisDOT is interested in hearing your opinion. Please take the time to talk with project staff following the presentation and group discussion, and please write your comments down on a comment sheet and submit back to the department.

Project information

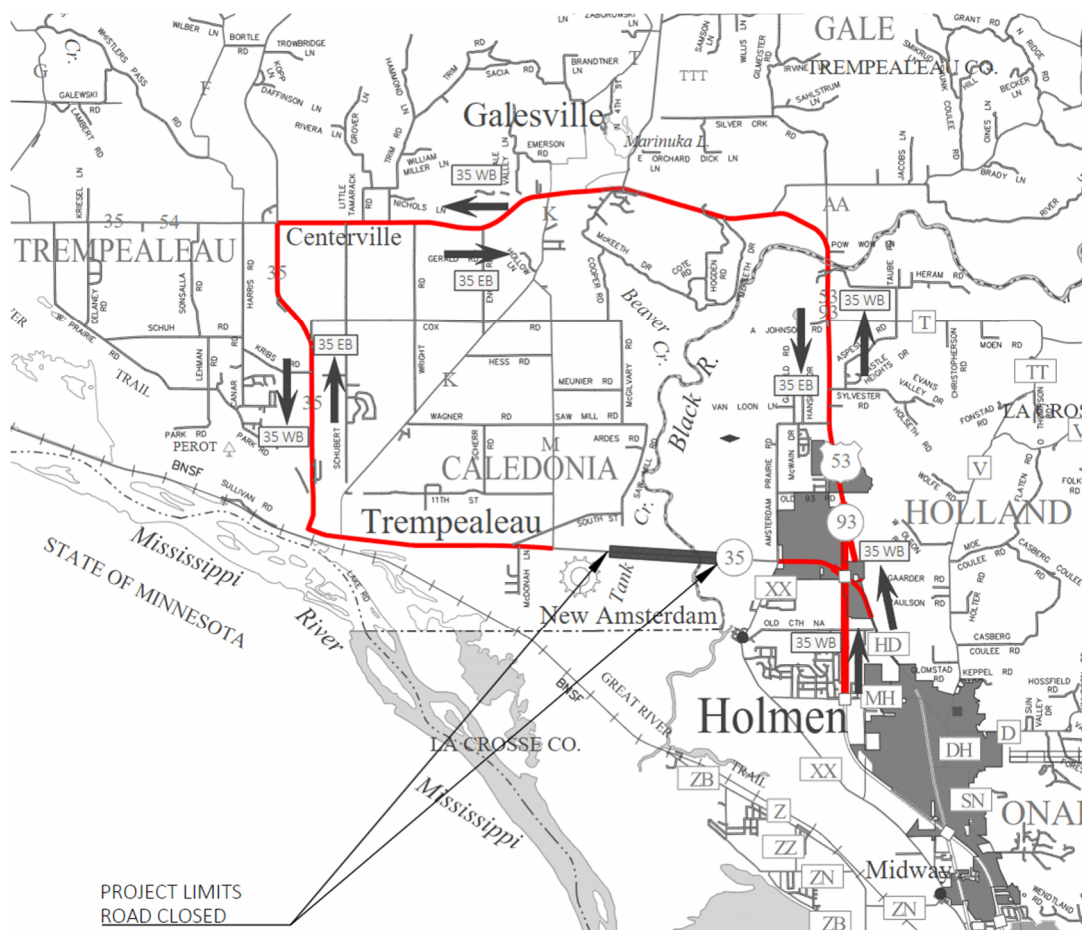
WisDOT is proposing to improve approximately 1 mile of WIS 35. Proposed improvements include:

- Replacement of three structures:
 - Tank Creek Bridge, a 2-span structure
 - 2 Bridges over the Black River, one a 6-span and one an 8-span structure
- Raise in elevation of the Black River Bridges to accommodate the change from steel girders to concrete girders and modernized standards for bridge hydraulics
- Widening of bridge decks from 28' to 40'
- Replace roadway pavement on bridge approaches and between the Black River Bridges
- Replacement of guardrail at bridge approaches
- Addition of stone rip rap along shores for erosion control and stabilization

The project is adjacent to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Van Loon Wildlife Area, as well as land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Studies are currently ongoing to determine presence of potential historic resources, wetlands adjacent to the project and to identify potential impacts on threatened and endangered species. Additional investigation is planned to investigate tools for maintenance of traffic along the proposed detour route.

WIS 35 location/detour map



Proposed traffic impacts

Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2027.

All alternatives considered include closure of the roadway for construction of the Tank Creek bridge, estimated at a duration of 4 months. The waterway configuration and the lack of a suitable landing point for alternative alignments (either temporary or permanent) make maintaining traffic unfeasible at this location.

Alternatives considered for replacement of the Black River bridges fall in two general categories:

Maintenance of Traffic

This alternative would use the off-line construction of the new bridges or the use of temporary bridges to maintain traffic while the new bridges are being constructed. This would allow traffic to traverse through the construction zone while construction operations are occurring. This would result in an estimated delay of 3-5 minutes on a trip from Trempealeau to Holmen, but also a significant increase in project construction cost. This alternative may include the use of temporary traffic signals to have traffic limited to one lane, which could be a challenge with the length of the project work zone.

Full Closure and Detour

These alternatives would continue to utilize the detour for the Tank Creek Bridge construction. This was considered for options that would have one bridge built a year, or to compress the project schedule to require the building of the two Black River bridges simultaneously. This would be an estimated delay of 10-12 minutes on a trip from Trempealeau to Holmen. The alternative considered for a compressed construction schedule would be the shortest project duration considered among alternatives.

The project detour would increase traffic on WIS 54/93 from Centerville to Galesville and US 53 from Galesville to Holmen. The most significant impact of this increased traffic would be greater challenge of entering the highway from side roads, which is an ongoing issue that saw recent localized improvements on WIS 54/93 and is in consideration for a current design project on US 53.

Additional comparative details on traffic impact alternatives are included on a separate page.

Access to the boat landing between the two bridges on the Black River will likely not be available while construction is ongoing on the Black River Bridges.

Three alternatives of the four considered would, weather permitting, have construction finishing near the end of 2028. The other alternative, with building one bridge a year, would have construction finishing in 2029.

WisDOT's Preferred Alternative is to utilize a Full Closure with Detour combined with a compressed schedule to limit the duration of the detour's impact on the driving public. This alternative provides a blend of the lower project construction cost and environmental impacts with a reduction in impact on businesses and residents by utilizing the lowest estimated construction duration of alternatives considered.

Real estate

Additional right of way may be, but is not likely, to be required for this project. This becomes more likely if a maintenance of traffic alternative is selected.

Project update/next steps

Tonight's meeting is the second public involvement meeting for the project. Our first public involvement meeting was held at the Town of Holland Hall on November 15, 2022.

Project Schedule:

Public Involvement Period	November 13, 2024 – December 15, 2024
Completion of Environmental Document	Spring 2025
Completion of Project Design	August 2026
Beginning of Construction	Summer 2027

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 December 15, 2024 or leave them in the comment box tonight. You can also e-mail 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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Alternative	Construction Cost	Project Duration	User Delay	Operational Impacts	Environmental Impacts	Utility Impacts
Full Closure and Detour Alternatives						
1 bridge a construction season	Lowest \$13,000,000 - \$13,999,999	Highest 14-16 months spread over 3 years	Highest 10-12 minutes, 400 calendar days	Lowest	Lowest Threat/Endangered Species Wetlands impacts	Low
Multiple bridges built at once	Low \$15,000,000 - \$15,999,999	Lowest 14-16 months sequentially	High 10-12 minutes, 350 calendar days	Lowest	Low Threat/Endangered Species – more temporary habitat loss Temporary & Permanent Wetlands impacts	Low
Maintenance of Traffic Alternatives						
Traffic on Existing Structure; Build new structures to north	High \$17,000,000 - \$17,999,999	Low 16-18 months sequentially	Low 10-12 minutes, 100 calendar days	Highest Increased maintenance costs (larger structures, bridge scour)	Highest Threat/Endangered Species – greater temporary habitat loss Greatest Wetlands Impacts	High
Closure and Detour for Tank Creek	Longer permanent structures over Black River		5 minutes, 360 calendar days	Decreased driver safety for the long term	Greater temporary wetlands impacts	
Build temporary structures to north; replace structure on alignment	Highest \$18,000,000 - \$18,999,999	Low 16-18 months sequentially	Lowest 10-12 minutes, 100 calendar days	High Temporary decreased driver safety	High Threat/Endangered Species – greatest temporary habitat loss Greater Wetlands Impacts	High
Closure and Detour for Tank Creek	Temporary structures over Black River		3 minutes, 360 calendar days		Greatest temporary wetlands impacts	

Public Involvement Meeting Comment Form

Project ID 7140-00-01 & 7140-00-02

WIS 35

La Crosse – Trempealeau

Tank Creek Bridge B-61-19 / Black River Bridges B-32-16 & B-32-18

Trempealeau & La Crosse Counties

November 13, 2024

Please place this form in the comment box or mail by December 15, 2024 to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be e-mailed to paul.valenti@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)

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The information in this document including names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail 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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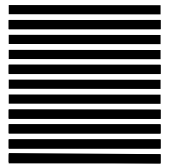
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Attn: *Paul Valenti*

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