

# **Public Information Meeting**

**I-39/Business 51 Interchange  
Rothschild  
Marathon County**

**Project I.D. 1166-12-74**



**September 18, 2012  
5 to 7 p.m.  
Presentation to begin at 5 p.m.**

**Rothschild Village Hall  
211 Grand Avenue  
Rothschild, WI 54474**

## **Purpose of the meeting**

Welcome to the initial public information meeting for the proposed improvements to the I-39/Business 51 interchange. See Figure 1 for location map.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is currently in the design phase of this project, which is on Business 51 between Village Way and County L (Eagle's Nest Boulevard), and includes the I-39 ramps.

The purpose of today's meeting is to present the proposed plan, answer questions, and listen to your comments, concerns or suggestions. After a brief presentation, the meeting will follow an open house format.

Please take time to review the information presented. WisDOT project representatives are available to answer questions. A public input form is also available for you to give written comments.

## **Project Need**

The pavement on the I-39/Business 51 interchange ramps and on Business 51 is reaching the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. This interchange in its current configuration was constructed in the late 1960s.

Increased traffic at this interchange is causing traffic congestion and backups on the exit ramps. Traffic demands are also impacting the Business 51/County XX (Imperial Avenue) intersection, which requires additional lanes to operate safely and efficiently.

## **Project description**

The proposed improvements include:

- Reconstruct the existing Business 51 roadway between Village Way and County L (Eagle's Nest Blvd) to a four-lane divided roadway with turn lanes
- Add right turn lanes on southbound Business 51 at both rail crossings
- Add bike lanes on northbound and southbound Business 51
- Construct pedestrian accommodations along Business 51
- Construct retaining walls to minimize right of way and environmental impacts
- Realign Morrison Avenue to line up with the south I-39 ramps
- Install traffic signals at both ramp intersections and at the County XX intersection
- Reconstruct all I-39/Business 51 interchange ramps
- Reconstruct the Cedar Creek Bridge and raise it out of the floodplain

These improvements are intended to improve access to and from I-39 on Business 51 and provide for more efficient traffic operations in the I-39/Business 51 interchange area.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2015, but could occur as early as the summer of 2014. Construction is anticipated to be completed within one year.

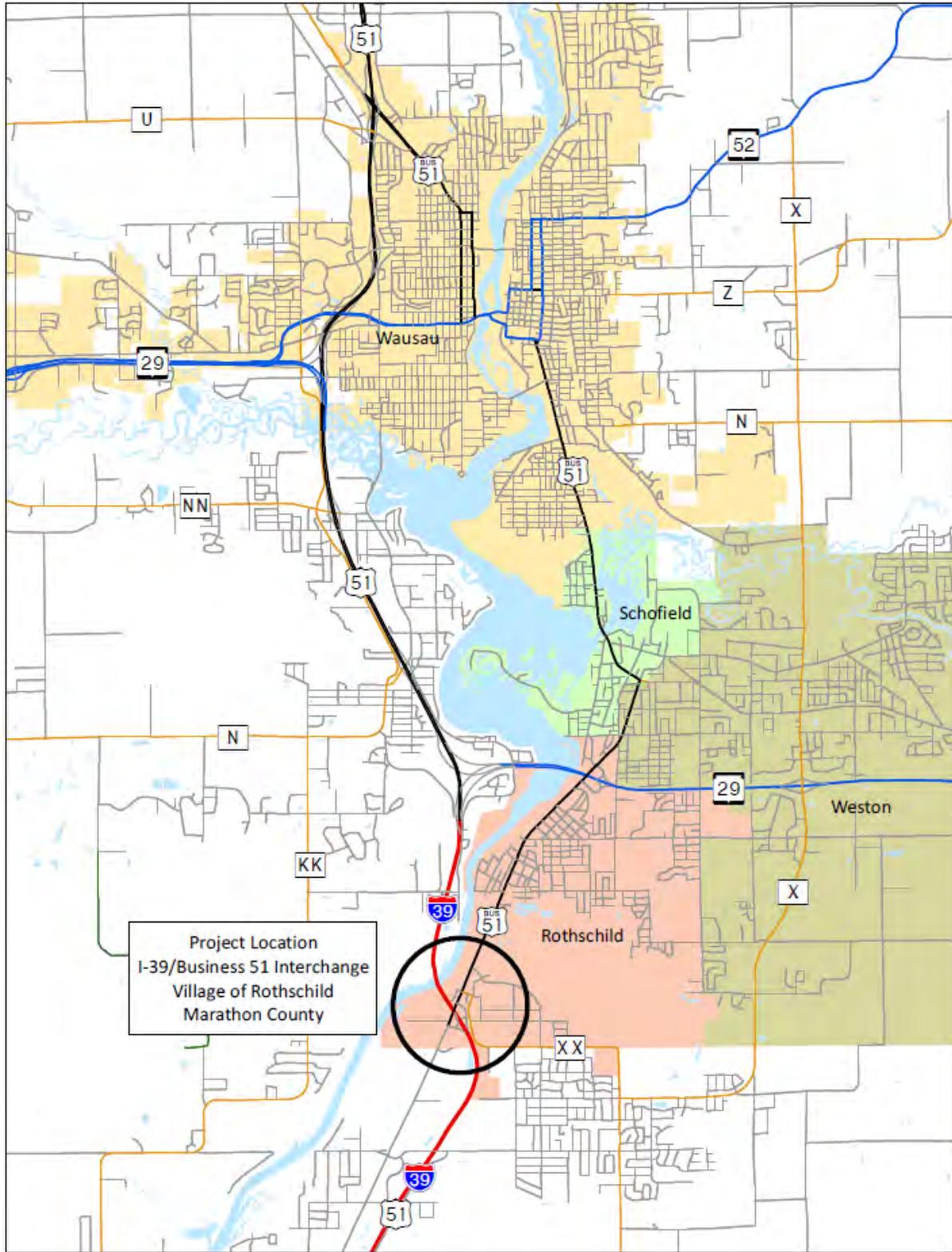


Figure 1. I-39/Business 51 Interchange location map

## **Ramp Alternatives**

Three ramp alignment alternatives have been developed.

- Alternative 1 meets all desired design standards. It is costly due to right of way impacts. See Figure 2.
- Alternative 2 meets all minimum design standards. Requires auxiliary lanes on I-39 for acceleration and deceleration purposes. See Figure 3.
- Alternative 3 replaces the existing configuration in kind. Does not meet minimum design standards. See Figure 4.

Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative at this time because it provides a good balance of improvement over the existing condition while minimizing right of way impacts.

## **Traffic Impacts**

Business 51 will be constructed in stages. The intent is to construct Business 51 while maintaining at least one lane of traffic in each direction. This will likely require lane closures on Business 51 and County XX during construction.

The intent for this project is that access to businesses be maintained at all times. Traffic will be maintained on the I-39 ramps to the extent possible. Ramp construction near I-39 may require temporary lane closures or lane shifts on I-39.

This project will likely require a detour for Business 51 traffic during construction of the Cedar Creek Bridge.

## **Real estate**

This project will require right of way acquisition. Additionally, there will be a need for temporary grading easements to blend in with the existing ground.

WisDOT currently expects to begin real estate acquisition in the summer of 2013. WisDOT Real Estate staff are here tonight to address any questions regarding the real estate acquisition process.



Figure 2. Ramp Alternative #1



**Figure 3. Ramp Alternative #2**



Figure 4. Ramp Alternative #3

## **Project update**

This is the first public information meeting to be held for this interchange reconstruction project.

Once the construction plans have been further developed, a second public information meeting will be scheduled. This will likely take place in early 2013. Topics that will be discussed at that time will include construction staging and other design details.

Currently, an archaeological survey is being conducted to make sure no historic artifacts would be disturbed during construction.

Subsurface investigations (soil borings) will begin shortly in areas where retaining walls and overhead signs are planned.

A project website (<http://www.dot.wi.gov/projects/ncregion/3951int/index.htm>) has been developed to be used as a convenient tool to keep people informed of the project progress and important details.

## **Public 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 concerns about the project.

Please mail any written comments and concerns about the project before October 12, 2012 or leave them in the comment box tonight.

For more information, please contact:

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