

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
2:00 P.M.

LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
210 RIVER DR., WAUSAU, WI

Members: John Robinson – Chair, George Peterson – Vice Chair, Allan Opall, Betty Hoenisch, Steve Hagman, Katie Rosenberg, Tim Buttke, Matt Lee Baer, Milton Olson, Chris Voll, Mark Maloney, Brent Jacobson, Gregg Hoehn, Ken Wickham

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Metropolitan Planning Commission members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, Metropolitan Planning Commission members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Metropolitan Planning Commission members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning **five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

PHONE NUMBER: 1-408-418-9388
ACCESS CODE: 2497 816 0895

Please Note: If you are prompted to provide an “Attendee Identification Number” enter the # sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference.
When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS;
3. PUBLIC COMMENT

POLICY DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 2021 MEETING;
5. KOWALSKI INTERCHANGE UPDATE – (FIFRICK);
6. 28TH AVENUE PROJECT – (COUNTY/WAUSAU);
7. DRAFT 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP);
8. COMMUNITIES USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS;
9. COUNTY BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE;
10. NEXT MEETING DATE – OCTOBER 12, 2021;
11. ADJOURN.

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk’s Office at 715-261-1500 one business day before the meeting.


SIGNED _____
PRESIDING OFFICER OR DESIGNEE

EMAILED TO: Courthouse, Daily Herald, TPP Printing, City Pages
Midwest Radio Group, Marshfield News

EMAILED BY: BI
EMAIL DATE/TIME: 09/09/2021 2:10pm

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:
By: _____
Date: _____



MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes
August 10, 2021

Commissioners: John Robinson – Chair, George Peterson – Vice-Chair, Katie Rosenberg, Randy Fifrick (for Voll), Jeff Gates (for Jacobson), Tim Buttke, Michael Wodalski (for Maloney), Mark Thuot (for Hoehn), Keith Rusch (for Hoenisch), Jared Wehner (for Opall)

TAC Members: Dave Mack, Andrew Lynch, David Meuret, Darryl Landeau, Greg Seubert, Mike Wendt, Allen Wesolowski

Others Present: Brenda Iczkowski, Carrie Edmondson, William Harris

1. Call to Order

In the presence of a quorum, with the agenda being properly signed and posted, the meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 2:00 p.m. at 210 River Drive, Wausau and virtually via WebEx.

2. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Approve Minutes July 13, 2021 meeting

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / FIFRICK TO APPROVE THE JULY 13, 2021 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

5. Metropolitan Housing Assessment- North Central WI Regional Planning Commission

Discussion: Carrie Edmondson, planner from North Central WI Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), shared the project proposal is for the creation of the Metro Wausau Housing Assessment. The scope of the project has the following 5 main tasks: Background analysis, Inventory, and Evaluation of Existing Conditions; Public Participation and Outreach; Organizational Strategy Evaluations and Research; Implementation Strategies; Formulation of the Final Housing Assessment. NCWRPC estimates the assessment will take in between 12 to 18 months to complete and is requesting \$15,000 from the local municipalities that are in the Wausau Metro area.

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY FIFRICK / WEHRER TO ENDORSE THE METROPOLITAN HOUSING ASSESSMENT AND THE FUNDING AS SHOWN IN THE PROPOSAL. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Follow Through: Staff will write a letter of endorsement for the Metropolitan Housing Assessment.

6. Approval of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Updates

Discussion: Lynch refreshed the commission of the list of revisions for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Wausau MPO. On July 16, a public meeting open house was held at 210 River Drive, which no one was in attendance. The information was also posted on the MPO website and solicited through emails to committee members and social media. There were a total of 13 responses and 3 additional email responses. At the July Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting, the Commission reviewed and approved the comments and made slight modifications as suggested.

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / FIFRICK TO ACCEPT THE BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Follow Through: Staff will make the amended plan available with the new amendments.

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7. Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) findings on Metropolitan Statistical Area Designation
Discussion: Mack recalled that in the beginning of 2021, the Office of Management and Budget were looking at changing the Metropolitan Statistical Area Designation per the census going from 50,000 to 100,000 which would impact the MPO's designations. The OMB decided to keep the designations at 50,000. The designations are reviewed after all censuses are completed.
Action: None at this time.
Follow Through: For informational purposes only.
8. STP - Urban Grant Funds Update –
Discussion: Mack shared the summary of 2023-2027 Local Program Cycle Allocations that are included in the packet. The funds are through the WisDOT and based on population. Wausau receives \$3.1 million in the area. The program has a 5 year cycle to allocate funds to a project and then construct them in that timeframe. The funding cycles come out every 2 years. Since there are projects that haven't been completed yet in our area, Wausau Area will not be allocated any funds this cycle.
Action: None at this time.
Follow Through: For informational purposes only.
9. Long Range Transportation Plan Update
Discussion: Mack shared part of the Long Range Transportation Plan process is working with WisDOT on a traffic model. The current traffic model has data that is from the 2010 census. The traffic model should reflect the current state of the roadways and the projected model shows expected traffic in 2050. This plan is an update until the finalized census data is received. In the packet are maps showing what the level of service is and is what the traveler's perceptions are. The traffic model map legend was explained as A, B, and C having none or some delay with lower amount of traffic concern. D with a higher impact of delay, and E having a very concerning amount of delay during certain periods of day. The future projection map to the year 2050 showed areas of concern around the metro area in Wausau on Grand Avenue and Mosinee on the WI River Bridge as persistent problem areas. Lynch added staff received further updates on the maps from the DOT traffic modeler right before the meeting. The updated model information will be mapped and shown to the Commission at the next meeting.
Action: None at this time.
Follow Through: Staff will continue to update the commission on the progress of the Long Range Transportation Plan.
10. County Broadband Task Force Update
Discussion: Robinson updated the commission on the Broadband service. Wisconsin through the Public Service Commission had available to utilize the American Rescue Act funds having \$100 million available for a cycle of grants due July 27. Requests for \$438 million from 241 applications have been received with 9 of the applications being from Marathon County. Marathon County is partnering with several companies that the MPO sent letter of supports for 4, Spectrum, Wittenberg Telephone Company, Bug Tussel, and County Wireless. Another application that the county will be partnering with is Charter in the same service area.
Action: None at this time.
Follow Through:
11. Next Meeting Date: September 14, 2021 at 2 PM, in the Large Conference Room at 210 River Drive, Wausau, WI and Webex.

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

August 10, 2021

12. Adjourn

Action: There being no further business to come before the members, **MOTION / SECOND BY FIFRICK / ROSENBERG TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AT 2:45 PM. MOTION CARRIES.**

Submitted by:

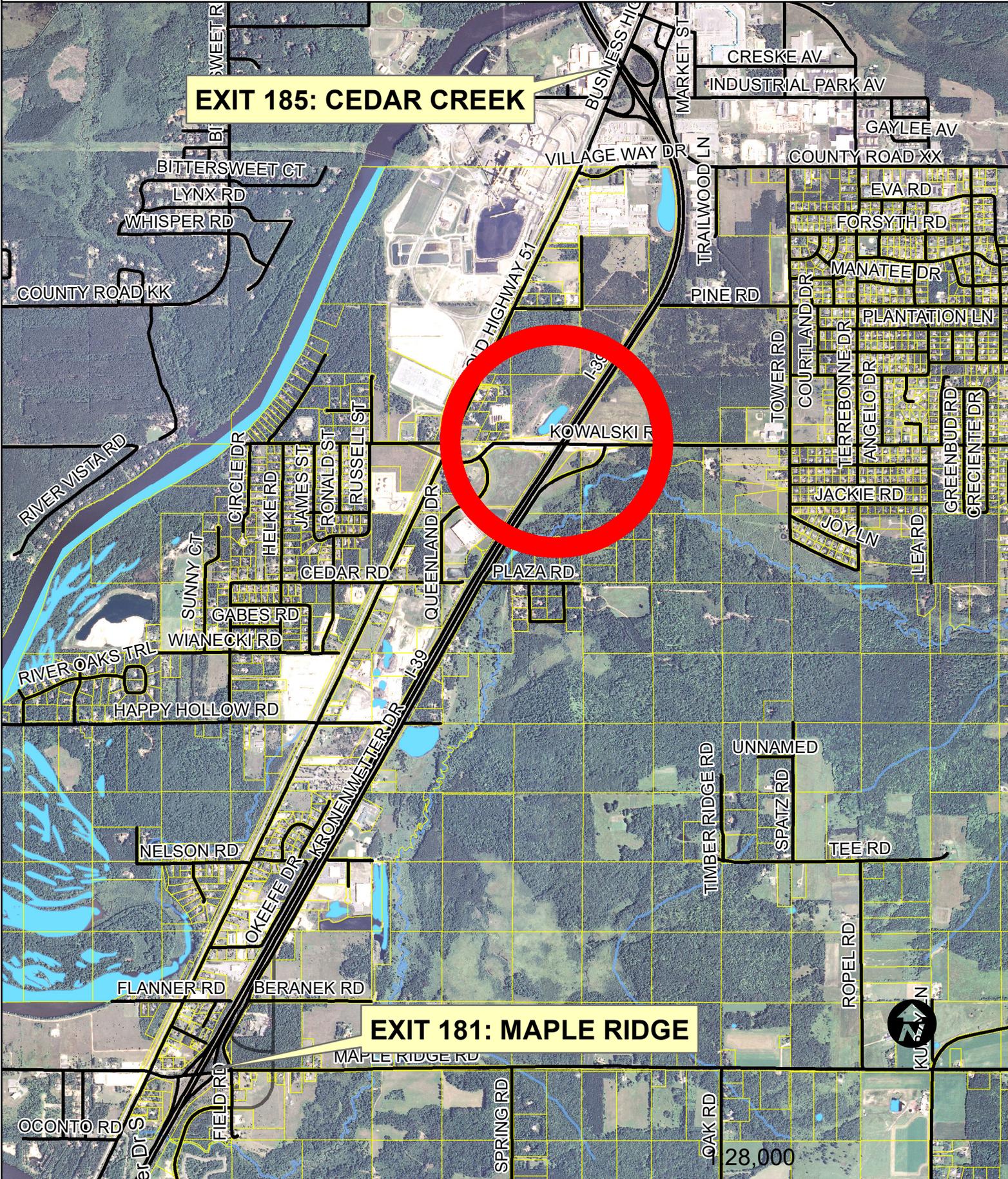
Dave Mack, MPO Director

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

DM: BI

I39/US51 Intersection at Kowalski Rd

Village of Kronenwetter



EXIT 185: CEDAR CREEK

EXIT 181: MAPLE RIDGE



28,000

Purpose & Need – 28th Ave

Purpose

In 2000, the Local Arterial Circulation Plan (LACP) was created with the recommendation to create a north-south arterial on 28th Ave from County Highway K south to Westhill Drive. The purpose of that plan was to provide arterial routes that would keep local traffic off US Hwy 51. Although the plan did not designate the eventual jurisdiction of this roadway, at that time much of the corridor project area was within the Town of Maine and Marathon County was the natural partner. This corridor was officially mapped in 2005. Twenty years after the plan was adopted, Marathon County is revisiting the need for this arterial and the need for a County Highway designation.

Need

As originally conceived, expanding 28th Ave was needed to provide a north-south access in the northwest corner of the metro area and connect into a larger circulation system.

Improving 28th Ave as proposed could serve as access to the west side of Wausau for anyone traveling from northern Marathon County or Merrill.

If municipal sewer and water could be available for the area north of Wausau Ave, it could be ripe for development. Both the Village of Maine and City of Wausau have CTH U area mapped in their comprehensive plans for commercial/retail development. The rest of the area is likely to stay large lot residential.

Changes

Over 20 years there have been many changes that have influenced the execution of the LACP. Specific to 28th Ave these are the major issues:

- Wisconsin River Bridge at Evergreen/Decatur was not constructed.
- CTH U and CTH K interchange was reconstructed. This makes it unlikely to have another access of Hwy 51 at Decatur. The configuration of this interchange does make on/off movements at CTH U difficult.
- Residential growth has focused in the southern communities of Kronenwetter, Weston, and Rib Mountain.
- City of Wausau developed Westwood Dr, a 4 lane road located half a mile to the east of 28th Ave.
- Village of Maine was formed which blocked the City of Wausau's expansion to the north.
- City of Wausau and Village of Maine do not have a municipal services agreement to provide sewer and water to this area.
- After construction of HWY 51/29 was complete, movement patterns in the metro area changed from what was predicted by the LACP.

Traffic Volume

In the current condition, the traffic count on 28th Ave is 1900 Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT). In 2009, a traffic forecast report estimated the 2019 volume at 3000 AADT. The future projection of the 2021 MPO traffic model suggests a level of 5000 AADT in 30 years. This level of traffic is adequately handled by a two lane road. Comparable traffic counts: Townline Road between Curling Way and Northwestern Ave is 5,600 AADT; CTH X east of CTH XX intersection is 4,900 AADT; CTH NN west of CTH R intersection is 5,200 AADT.

Safety

Crashes on 28th Ave, that cause injury, average 1/year over a 5 year period. The outstanding concern with 28th Ave is the section between Mary Ann Lane and Maple Hill Drive where the grade is over 19%.

Cost and Funding

In 2009, County Highway Department staff developed a project construction cost for the section between CTH U and Westhill Drive. The estimate totaled \$8.16 million for a four lane road including 16' outside lanes, combination of sidewalk and/or off street trail, curb & gutter, retaining walls, storm sewer, and side street connections. A preliminary estimate would put the current year (2021) cost for that design near \$10 million. Maintenance costs after construction should also be considered.

Over 20 years, Marathon County has spent \$896,190 to purchase multiple properties. Additional Right of Way (ROW) would still be needed to complete the project. Property acquisition was performed by a consultant to ensure compliance with Federal acquisition and compensation requirements. This allows any future projects to apply for Federal transportation dollars.

Questions

The MPO has been asked to weigh in on the need for improving 28th Ave and continuing the use of the LACP. Marathon County will be discussing this issue at the September 9th Infrastructure Committee. More specific questions may come from that discussion.

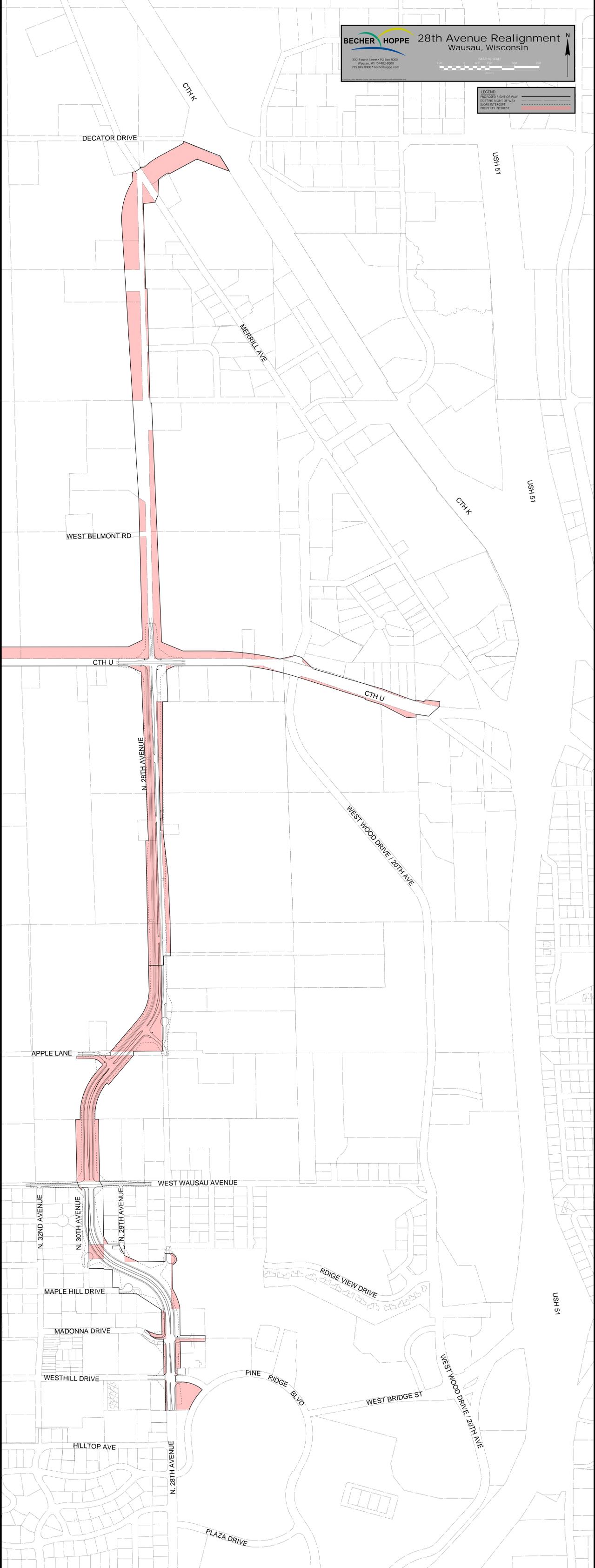
BECHER HOPPE 28th Avenue Realignment
Wausau, Wisconsin

330 Fourth Street PO Box 8000
Wausau, WI 54402-8000
715.845.8000 • becherhoppe.com

GRAPHIC SCALE
0 100 200 300
FEET

LEGEND

- PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
- EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY
- SCOPED INTEREST
- PROPERTY INTEREST





UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM – DRAFT

Can be found here:

<https://wasaumpo.org/plans-documents/unified-planning-work-program-upwp/>



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT CITIZEN FEEDBACK - DRAFT

As of September 3, 2021

The comments below are a representative sample of feedback received during public engagement efforts related to funding received as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Not all of the activities listed below may be eligible for funding. We are awaiting final guidance from the US Treasury. This list will be updated on a periodic basis as additional feedback is received.



BROADBAND

- Better broadband would improve the lives of everyone.
- Ability for Marathon County residents to have cheap, reliable broadband internet in their homes. There are some significant gaps across the County.
- We must have robust, reliable, and affordable broadband easily available for every home in Marathon County.
- Upgrading the County's broadband footprint will provide a more equitable environment for every student and worker within rural Marathon County.

- Access to affordable high-quality child care is becoming increasingly difficult for working families. Many child care centers in the area can not open classrooms or enroll any new families because they do not have teachers or teacher assistants to care for the children.
- The existing problem of low pay and benefits for child care staff has escalated due to COVID-19 and a general lack of workforce.
- It is a struggle for families to obtain child care that meets the needs of both the child and family.
- Increase financial investment and community conversations related to positively influencing the lives of young children through quality early care and education.
- Expand child care services to allow women to return to the workforce.



CHILDCARE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support revitalization of Downtown Wausau.
- Support efforts of the Wausau Opportunity Zone.
- Attract innovative companies.
- Support women entrepreneurs through training and education.
- Help provide assistance to low and moderate income businesses.
- Support the strategic plan and placemaking efforts of the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership.
- Efforts to be more inclusive and to ensure "a leg up" to those on the margins would help to ensure a safer community.
- Capital spending to support the County vacating the buildings on River Drive to make the area available for economic development.

- Any business with less than 20 employees should be considered for a stimulus payment.
- Support programs to help single adults who are on the verge of homelessness at all times.
- Get businesses up and running and secured.
- Look at potential expansion of PPP to allow payments to business owners.
- Funding homeless programs would help give an equal opportunity to everyone in our city and help keep our beautiful spaces safe for families to enjoy.
- Support Community Partners Campus project.
- Support programs to get people back to work.



ECONOMIC SUPPORT



FISCAL IMPACTS

- A tax property refund would benefit the local economy most.
- Incurred costs of rising prices of durable and construction materials - rising gas and food costs, available goods and services at an all-time low.
- Necessary commodities like food have gone up in price partly due to supply line problems. Improved roads and use of local producers could help.
- Pay off debt.
- Improve infrastructure to assist in keeping taxes low and/or reduce taxes for taxpayers who are struggling due to the pandemic.
- Send the money back to the Federal Government.

- Address chemical dependency (illegal drugs, alcohol, opioids)
- Share more information on Ivermectin and America's Frontline Doctors from the Marathon County Health Board.
- Get children and staff fully vaccinated and back in school. Get everyone in Marathon County eligible for COVID vaccination fully vaccinated, making work, school, homes, and public spaces much safer for every resident and visitor.
- Invest in mental health services as the pandemic has impacted access and need for treatment.
- Expand suicide prevention services.
- Support for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) programming and services.



HEALTH



HOUSING

- Help landlords struggling with no rent payments.
- More housing opportunities.
- Landlords are disappearing due to no one paying rent for a long time. There will be so few places for people to rent if they are not supported.

- Business transportation services
- Roadway improvements leading into and within County Parks.
- Bus shelters with benches.
- Electric busses, inter-city bus lines, and light rail to larger cities.
- Improve culverts to allow for improved water flow.
- Provide construction jobs to improve our County's infrastructure.
- Improve roads and light poles.



INFRASTRUCTURE



NATURAL RESOURCES

- Invest in our parks and gardens.
- More staff to keep parks clean.
- Young people are more interested in the environment, parks and bike trails.
- Improvements to the Wausau kayak course.
- Improving walkability on the west side.
- Bridge to Clark Island.
- Community bike paths.
- Assist non-profits in improving playgrounds.
- Climate control could be a primary focus to ensure a safe future for generations to come.

- Increase police budgets to ensure people feel safe again.
- Increase public safety and criminal justice resource to allow trials to take place in a more timely manner.
- Look for strategies to address shortages of emergency medical services (EMS).



PUBLIC SAFETY



UTILITIES

- Pay off the new drinking water and extensively updated sewage treatment plants in Wausau.
- Replace or permanently line every lead service line in Marathon County to protect residents, especially children, from lead poisoning in our drinking water.