August 16, 2023

Re: Public Involvement

 Bridge Replacement and Road Improvements

 ID 5436-00-05/75

CTH YY – CTH I

Russlan Coulee Creek Bridge

CTH M, La Crosse County

TO: All Property Owners and Concerned Citizens

The La Crosse County Highway Department invites you to attend a Public Involvement Meeting for the proposed improvements for County M over Russlan Coulee Creek. A presentation will be given at 4:00 p.m. followed by questions and discussion. Forms will be available at the meeting to provide written comments. The bridge is located in the Town of Barre approximately 1.1 miles east of the County YY. A project location map is enclosed.

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023; 4-6 pm

Where: Barre Town Hall, W3541 County Road M, La Crosse, WI 54601

The purpose of the project is to maintain and improve County M where it crosses Russlan Coulee Creek. Replacing the bridge is the recommended alternative due to the poor condition of the structure elements of the existing structure. The structure would be replaced with a new, modern structure that satisfies structural loading, hydraulic capacity, and clear width according to statutes and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements.

The Historic Miller Homestead is located in the northwest quadrant of the Russlan Coulee Creek project. The property is potentially eligible for inclusion as a property in the National Register of Historic Places. The public will have an opportunity to provide comments concerning the effects on this property. Other properties of historic interest along the project include Old St. John’s and Free Thinkers cemetery.

The public is encouraged to attend this open house event to review exhibits and information. Design staff will be present to answer questions about the project and its impacts. The meeting facilities are wheelchair accessible. Citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing and require an interpreter may request one by contacting the highway department at least three working days prior to the meeting.

The County M bridge project involves improvements to the roadway and bridge at the crossing of Russlan Coulee Creek. The proposed improvement would include the removal of the existing single-span steel girder bridge and construction of a new single-span prestressed concrete girder bridge. The 525-foot-long project would include replacement of the bridge at the existing location and approximately 457-feet of roadway approaches.

During construction of the County M project, the road will be open to through traffic by use of a temporary bypass just to the north of the existing bridge. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 3 months during 2025. The earliest construction could begin is May 15th due to in-stream work restrictions. The exact timeframe will be determined by the contractor based on their availability.

Additional right-of-way and easements are anticipated to be needed to build the project and construct the temporary bypass.

Representatives from La Crosse County and the consulting firm of Ayres Associates will be available to answer your questions or comments.

All interested persons are invited to review the project information materials and contact either La Crosse County Highway Department or Ayres Associates with comments or questions. Contact information is included in the attached comment form. Please return comments by **October 3, 2023**.

Sincerely,

Ayres Associates Inc



Daniel Sydow, PE

Project Engineer

Direct: 715.831.7593

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Enclosure

cc: Joe Langeberg – La Crosse County Highway Department
 Jennifer Kobryn – WisDOT Northwest Region PDS Supervisor