

# **West Wausau Avenue improvements**

***(Stevens Drive to North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue)***

**Public Involvement Meeting #1**

**February 29, 2024**



# Project team

- ▶ City of Wausau
  - Allen Wesolowski, PE – City Engineer
  - Eric Lindman, PE – Public Works Director
- ▶ EMCS, Inc. (design consultant)
  - Stephanie Christensen, PE
  - Nick Wiederin, PE



# Meeting objectives

- ▶ Project location
- ▶ Project purpose and need
- ▶ Proposed improvements
- ▶ Construction staging
- ▶ Real estate
- ▶ Current project schedule
- ▶ Questions

# Project location



# Purpose and need

- ▶ Highway importance
  - West Wausau Avenue is an important route serving residential and school traffic on the west side of Wausau
- ▶ The City's objective is to ensure the safe and efficient operations of the local roadway system while supporting local access needs

# Purpose and need

- ▶ The City has received federal funding through the WisDOT Local Road Program to address needs
  - 0.3 mile of West Wausau Avenue
- ▶ The existing pavement has met the end of its service life
  - Concrete pavement constructed in 1968
  - Cracking and deterioration present throughout



# Purpose and need

- ▶ In addition to deteriorated pavement, other needs exist along West Wausau Avenue
  - City of Wausau municipal utilities (sewer and water) are deteriorated
  - Existing curb ramps at Stevens Drive and along the north side of West Wausau Avenue do not meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Standards
  - There is a lack of pedestrian accommodations along the south side of the roadway

# Proposed improvements

- ▶ Reconstruct pavement
  - Full pavement reconstruction with 12-foot travel lanes and 8-foot parking lanes (where present)
  - Replace curb and gutter
- ▶ Replace storm sewer drainage inlets
- ▶ Reconstruct sanitary sewer and water main
- ▶ Improve pedestrian accommodations



# Pedestrian accommodations

- ▶ Reconstruct existing curb ramps to meet ADA standards
  - Replace curb ramps on east side of Stevens Drive
  - Replace curb ramps on north side of West Wausau Avenue
  - No work planned
    - Curb ramps on the west side of Stevens Drive will be replaced by the City under a separate project, if required
    - Curb ramps at North 10th Avenue were replaced in 2023

# Pedestrian accommodations

- ▶ North side of roadway
  - Reconstruct existing 8-foot sidewalk abutting curb
- ▶ South side of roadway
  - Evaluate addition of sidewalk to improve pedestrian connectivity through the project area
  - 6-foot sidewalk abutting curb to minimize impacts
- ▶ Per City code, clearing of snow on sidewalk is required by adjacent property owners

# Proposed construction staging

- ▶ Construction proposed June to August 2026
  - Avoid/minimize impacts to the school year
- ▶ Proposed traffic impacts
  - Alternative access points are available during summer to the school from Stevens Drive and North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - Provide for residential access
  - Maintain emergency services

# Real estate

- ▶ Right of way and temporary easements
  - Temporary easements will be required for blending slopes, driveway match points, staging, and utility connections
  - Minor fee acquisition may be required near curb ramps
- ▶ City of Wausau will acquire real estate
  - A real estate representative will be hired
- ▶ Estimated real estate needs shown on the exhibits
- ▶ Real estate brochure available

# Environmental considerations

- ▶ Temporary easements are required from the Wausau West School property
  - The building is a potential historic resource
  - The property is used by the public for recreation
  - Requires special consideration in the environmental document for the project
- ▶ Please provide input on the historical and recreational aspects of the project along with your other comments

# Current project schedule

- ▶ Project initiation - Fall 2023
- ▶ Public involvement meeting - February 29, 2024
- ▶ Preliminary plans - April 2024
- ▶ Plan and report approvals - Spring 2024
- ▶ Right of Way Plat - Summer 2024
- ▶ Real Estate Acquisition - Summer 2024 to Summer 2025
- ▶ Final plans - August 1, 2025
- ▶ Construction - Summer 2026

Additional public involvement meetings may be scheduled during the design and construction process.

# Questions?

- ▶ Allen Wesolowski – City of Wausau
  - [Allen.Wesolowski@ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:Allen.Wesolowski@ci.wausau.wi.us); 715.261.6740
- ▶ Stephanie Christensen – Consultant Designer
  - [schristensen@emcsinc.com](mailto:schristensen@emcsinc.com); 715.318.9017
- ▶ City of Wausau website
  - <https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/Engineering/StreetProjects/ProposedProjects.aspx>
- ▶ The handout packet contains a comment input form. Please mail or email by **March 14**.

