

Stewart Avenue improvements

(72nd Avenue to 48th Avenue)

Public Involvement Meeting #2

January 31, 2022



Project team

- ▶ City of Wausau
 - Allen Wesolowski, PE – City Engineer
 - Eric Lindman, PE – Public Works Director

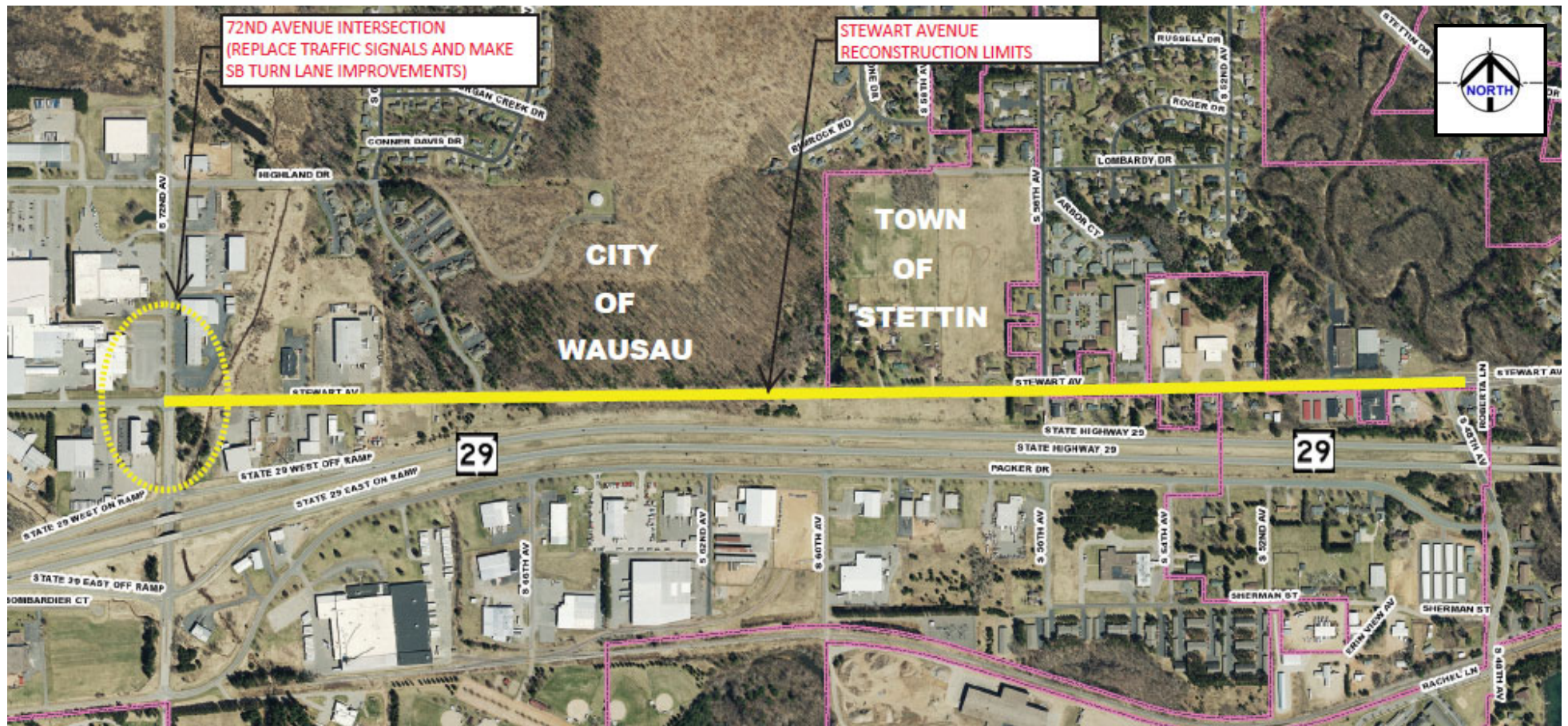
- ▶ EMCS, Inc. (design consultant)
 - Stephanie Christensen, PE
 - Scott Kaiser, PE
 - Jessica Splittgerber, PE



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
 - Stewart Avenue is an important route serving residential, commercial, industrial, and commuter traffic on the west side of Wausau and the Town of Stettin
- ▶ 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
- ▶ The existing pavement has met the end of its service life
 - Pavement constructed prior to the 1930s
 - Carried state highway traffic prior to construction of WIS 29
 - Cracking, rutting, and deterioration throughout

Purpose and need

- ▶ In addition to deteriorated pavements, other needs exist along Stewart Avenue
 - There are no accommodations for pedestrians (no sidewalks or trails) or bicycles (no paved shoulders)
 - City of Wausau municipal utilities (sewer and water) are deteriorated or undersized
 - The traffic signal equipment at the Stewart Avenue and 72nd Avenue intersection is outdated (1994) and the intersection doesn't adequately accommodate traffic

Proposed improvements

▶ Pavement reconstruction

- Full pavement reconstruction with 12-foot travel lanes/6-foot shoulders (36-foot roadway)
- Construction of curb and gutter and storm sewer
 - Roadside ditches will be maintained for stormwater treatment along the south side between 72nd Avenue and 56th Avenue
 - A stormwater pond is planned near 48th Avenue to treat stormwater prior to the Rib River
- Extension of the box culvert just east of 72nd Avenue

Proposed improvements

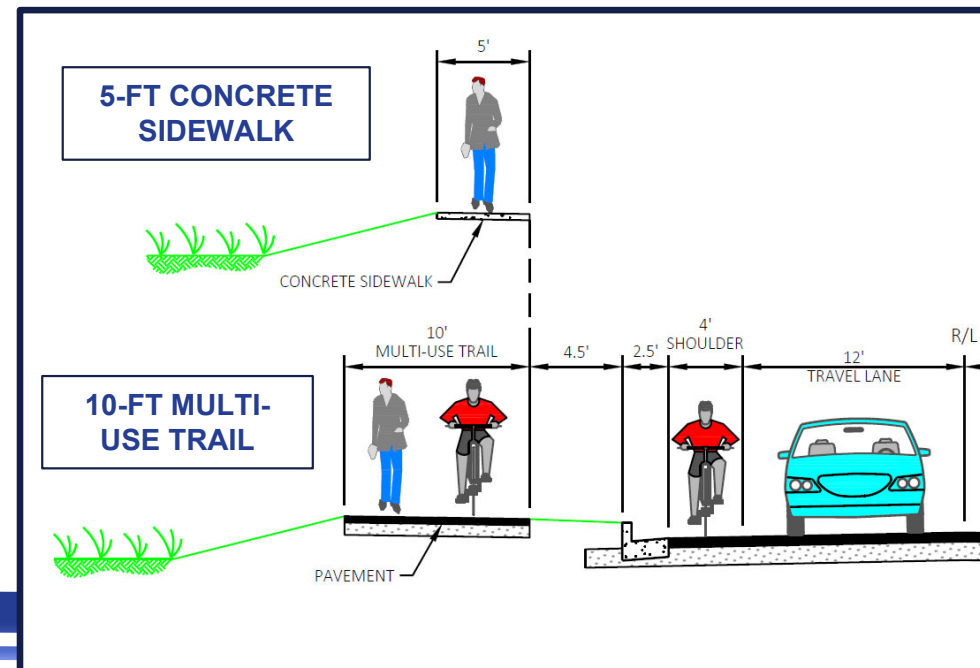
- ▶ Reconstruction of undersized and deteriorated sanitary sewer and water main
 - Includes extension of the sanitary sewer and watermain facilities to improve system connectivity between 72nd Avenue and 48th Avenue

Proposed improvements

- ▶ Replacement of traffic signals at the 72nd Avenue intersection
 - Modify intersection to improve truck turning movements
 - Add a southbound left turn lane
 - Resurface the asphaltic pavement in the intersection

Multi-modal accommodations

- ▶ Paved shoulders would accommodate on-street bicycle riders within the roadway
 - On-street bicycle accommodations are anticipated to be marked with an edge line and bike marking symbols
- ▶ Pedestrian facilities were evaluated along the north side of Stewart Avenue
 - 5-foot sidewalk
 - 10-foot multi-use trail



Pedestrian options considered

- ▶ 5-foot sidewalk
 - Accommodates pedestrians
 - Bicyclists would use the paved roadway shoulders
- ▶ 10-foot multi-use trail (**preferred**)
 - Accommodates both pedestrians and bicyclists that do not want to use the roadway
 - Would connect the proposed 72nd Avenue multi-use trail (2022), the MPO bicycle route on 48th Avenue, and sidewalks east of 48th Avenue along Stewart Avenue

Pedestrian options considered

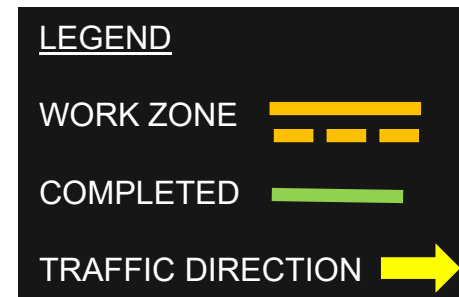
- ▶ Public input received at the first public meeting supported the 10-foot multi-use trail
- ▶ The City of Wausau proposes to maintain the trail including snow removal

Proposed construction staging

- ▶ Construction will take a full season (Spring to Fall)
- ▶ Maintaining safety and access are key issues during construction
- ▶ Proposed traffic impacts
 - Staged construction plan will provide for business and residential access
 - Maintain emergency and community services

Proposed construction staging

- ▶ Stage 1: 72nd Avenue to 48th Avenue
 - Maintain two-way traffic with flagging during work hours
 - Traffic control set up and prepare the project for work
 - Temporary shoulder paving to manage traffic
 - Begin the stormwater pond near 48th Avenue
 - Staged work may begin within 72nd Avenue intersection



Proposed construction staging

- ▶ Stage 2A/B: 56th Avenue to 48th Avenue
 - Maintain one-way traffic westbound
 - Construct roadway and utilities half at a time
 - Short-term closure of 48th Avenue for sanitary sewer
 - Other work:
 - 68th Avenue to 56th Avenue: utility work may start
 - Staged 72nd Avenue intersection work & box culvert work



Proposed construction staging

- ▶ Stage 3A/B: 72nd Avenue to 56th Avenue
 - Road closed from 68th Avenue to 56th Avenue
 - Two lanes of traffic shifted from 72nd Avenue to 68th Avenue
 - Construct roadway and utilities half at a time
 - Other work:
 - Staged 72nd Avenue intersection work may continue
 - Short (weekend) intersection closure for sanitary sewer



Proposed construction staging

- ▶ Stage 4A/B: 72nd Avenue to 68th Avenue
 - One-way eastbound from 72nd Avenue to 68th Avenue
 - Construct remaining roadway pavement
 - Other work:
 - Staged 72nd Avenue intersection work may continue



Proposed construction staging

- ▶ Stage 5: 72nd Avenue Intersection
 - Maintain traffic under flagging conditions
 - Complete 72nd Avenue pavement resurfacing in intersection
 - Complete any remaining traffic signal work



Real estate

- ▶ Right of way and temporary easements
 - Temporary easements will be required for blending slopes, driveway connections, and utility service replacements
 - Areas of fee acquisition are anticipated at spot locations for stormwater ditches and treatment areas
- ▶ 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



Current project schedule

- ▶ Project initiation - 2020
- ▶ Public involvement meeting - July 14, 2021
- ▶ Concept plans – November 2021
- ▶ Public involvement meeting - January 31, 2022
- ▶ Environmental document - Spring 2022
- ▶ Refined plans - Summer 2022
- ▶ Right of Way Plat – Summer 2022
- ▶ Real estate acquisition – Fall 2022 to Fall 2023
- ▶ Final plans – Fall 2023
- ▶ Construction - 2024

Questions?

- ▶ Allen Wesolowski – City of Wausau
 - Allen.Wesolowski@ci.wausau.wi.us; 715.261.6740
- ▶ Stephanie Christensen – Consultant Designer
 - 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 **February 14**.

