

From Tyler Rongstad of the WI DOT following 6-19-2017 Town Board Meeting

Hi Dennis,

First off, thank you for having me at your board meeting this week. I understand your concern for the condition of your local roads during the detour. As we discussed, State Statutes 348.15-348.21 are there for you to administer and enforce weight limits on local roads.

To follow-up on the questions from yesterday:

Q: Haas requested to know if Chippewa County would be signing CTH SS & CTH F with a weight limit?

A: At this time I was unable to obtain a firm answer from the County on this matter. Since I am unable to officially speak for them I would suggest Haas reach out directly to the County for information on the weight limits of their County Roads or check periodically on their website:<http://www.co.chippewa.wi.us/government/highway/current-road-bans-and-class-b-roads>.

Q: Concerns over access for buses, garbage trucks, postal service, etc.

A: Access will be maintained for traffic generators such as buses, garbage trucks, postal service however they will need to use the detour route in order to access each side of the bridges. The project duration (100 calendar days) will likely have an impact on the end of the 2017 school year or the start of the 2018 school year. I have reached out to Chippewa Falls and Bloomer school districts so that they are made aware of the detour route and access. The expected increase in drive time via the detour is 11-15 minutes.

Q: Could all 3 bridges be constructed at once, therefore reducing the overall project duration?

A: Constructing all 3 bridges at a time is possible, however the only access to the middle bridge would be via local roads. It was decided that the bridges would be constructed one at a time to minimize the impacts on the local residents who reside between/near the bridges; reduce project cost; and to avoid putting construction traffic on local roads.

If we accelerated the projects (I.E. had 3 full crews working on all 3 bridges at once) we could reduce the overall project duration. The anticipated increase in cost could be in the ~\$210,000 to ~\$450,000 range (increase in 25-50% of total project cost) depending on how much we try to accelerate the schedule. WisDOT does not feel this additional cost is warranted given the traffic volumes in this area and the availability of a manageable detour route.

Q: What other future work is scheduled on STH 124 near Eagle Point?

A: There is a project scheduled for STH 124 in the summer of 2018 in Chippewa Falls. The work will be from Bridge Street to Elm Street. The project consists of an asphalt overlay, curb ramp upgrades and minimal sidewalk/roadway repair. Work will be completed using single lane closures.

A: No other projects are scheduled at this time in the next 6 years on 124 by WisDOT (tentative to change). There could be County maintenance projects such as chip seals but you would have to reach out to the County for that information

I understand the inconvenience to the community this project will have. The bridges require maintenance and the plan WisDOT has put together will provide the most cost effective use of our tax payer dollars while still maintaining access to local businesses and homes. Thank you again for working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,

Tyler

**Tyler Rongstad, P.E.**

NW Region Project Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Northwest Region - Eau Claire  
Office: (715) 836-2094 | Cell: (715) 461-0372