PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

COUNTY HIGHWAY T

EAU CLAIRE & CHIPPEWA COUNTIES

JEWELL associates engineers, inc.
Engineers - Architects - Surveyors

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

KL Engineering
[A] Better Experience

Eau Claire COUNTY

CHIPPEWA COUNTY Est. 1848
WISCONSIN

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE

Town of Union
Eau Claire County

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
TOWN OF WHEATON
WISCONSIN

TODAY'S PRESENTERS

Jeff Smith, PE
Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc.

Jon Johnson
Eau Claire County Highway Commissioner

Matt Regnier, PE, PTOE, RSP_1, QRD_2
KL Engineering, Inc.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Information

- Begins at the Alpine Road Intersection
- Ends Near 33rd Avenue (Matches into Existing 4-lane Section)
- Approximately 3.5 miles in Length
- Traverses Through Both Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **Meet the needs of the traveling public**
  - Existing Traffic: 7,600± Vehicles per Day
  - Traffic forecasted to nearly double by 2036

- **Establish Corridor with Smart Growth in mind**
  - Establish limited direct access to County T
  - Build to meet current needs and future demands
  - Build to meet current safety standards

PROJECT HISTORY

- **2020-2021: Project Studied Initiated**
  - Jewell retained to work with local governments to develop a corridor plan for the expansion of County T:
    - Conceptual layouts and alternatives developed;
    - Two public involvement meetings offered to discuss alternatives;
    - A preferred alternative was selected.

- **2022: Corridor Mapping Developed**
  - Plat established the approximate corridor needed for future expansion.
  - Plat recorded with Eau Claire & Chippewa Counties to “Preserve” corridor for future expansion of roadway and prevent conflicting development to occur.

PROJECT HISTORY (CONT.)

- **2023 - Present: Local Project Team Solicited for Initial Design / Coordination**
  - Jewell selected as firm for initial design and project coordination
    - Develop detailed mapping of existing conditions and constraints (surveying)
    - Complete detailed traffic forecast for corridor
    - Complete intersection control evaluation (10th, 20th, 30th Avenues)
    - Complete environmental assessment, including

Land Impacts	Agricultural Impacts	Traffic Needs / Safety
Land Use (present & future)	Business Impacts	Environmental Justice
Archaeological Survey	Historical Survey	Native American Coordination
Wetland/Flood Plain Impacts	Endangered Species	Noise Impacts
Hazardous Materials	Airport Coordination	Access Impacts

    - Begin initial design efforts for entire corridor

PROJECT HISTORY (CONT.)

- **2023 - Present: Federal Funding Received**
  - **Grant application submitted to request funding for project**
    - Project was selected to receive federal funding assistance
    - Substantial funding allocated, but not enough to fund entire corridor.
  - **Team evaluated segment of corridor to apply funding towards**
    - 17th Avenue to 33rd Avenue selected to move forward with (Phase 1):
      - Creates improved roadway segment to Highway 29
      - Provides improved access to Eau Claire Events District
      - Ongoing coordination with railroad on south end of corridor will take some time.
  - **Project team to continue exploring funding opportunities for segment between Alpine Road and 17th Avenue (Phase 2)**

CURRENT OBJECTIVES

- **Objective #1: Entire Corridor (Alpine Road – 33rd Avenue)**
  - Complete environmental documentation
  - Complete 30% design plans for entire corridor
  - Develop more detailed cost estimate for proposed improvements

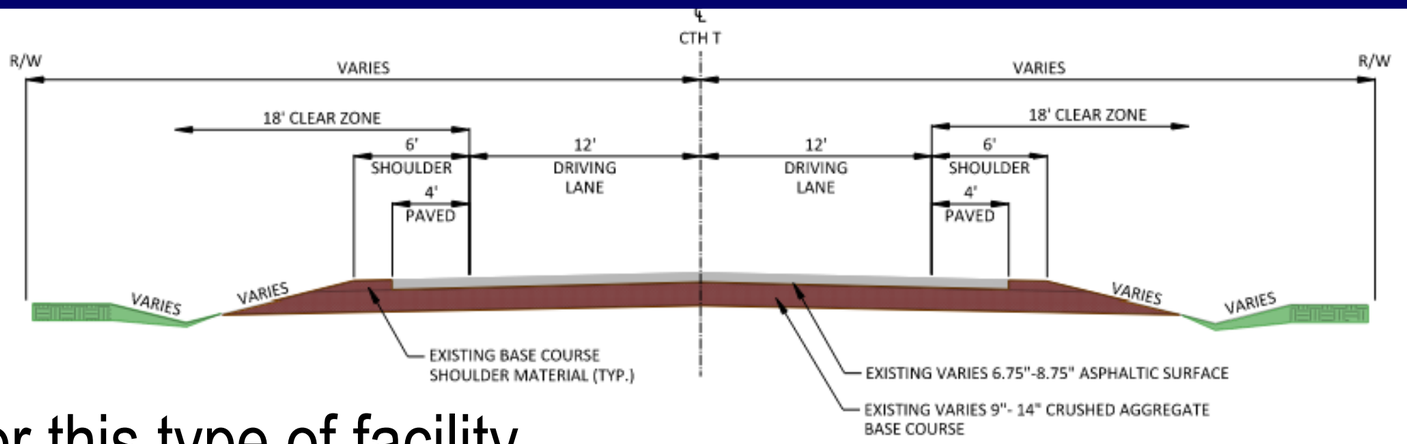
☑ Anticipated Completion Date: Spring 2025

- **Objective #2: Move Forward with Full Design of Phase 1 (17th Ave – 33rd Ave)**
  - Full design, plan preparation, bidding documents

☑ Anticipated Design Completion Date: Winter 2026

DEEPER DIVE INTO PROJECT

- **Existing Conditions**
  - Two lane rural roadway
  - 12 ft. lanes
  - 6 ft. shoulders (4 ft. paved)
  - Current traffic volumes are high for this type of facility
  - Future residential and commercial development expected to expand into this area
    - Existing facility cannot accommodate anticipated growth



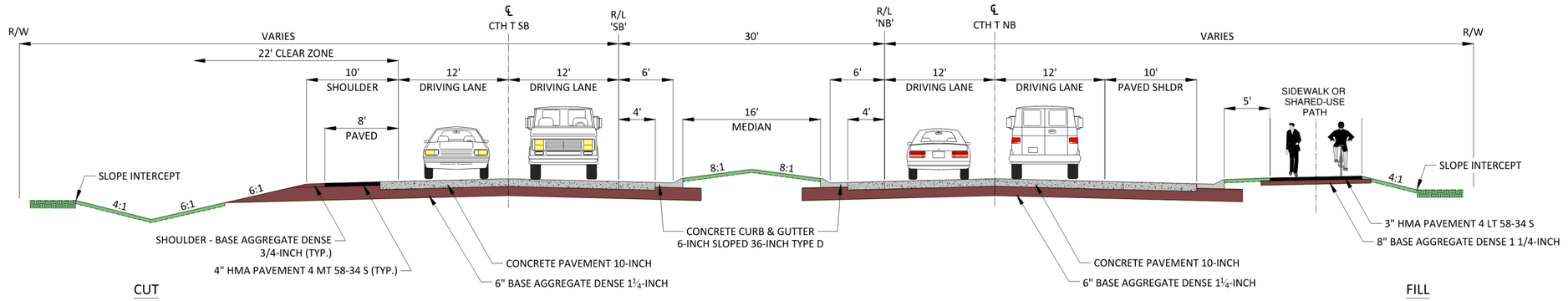
DEEPER DIVE INTO PROJECT (CONT.)

- **Proposed Conditions**
  - Four-lane urban transitional roadway
  - 12 ft. lanes
  - 10 ft. shoulders (outside); 4 ft. shoulders (inside)
  - Raised median (curb & gutter) between northbound and southbound lanes
  - Combination of ditches and curb & gutter (storm sewer) to convey stormwater
  - Roundabouts proposed at:

10th Avenue (County Line Road)	20th Avenue	30th Avenue

  - Access modifications at:

Venture Dr. (Cul de Sac)	Prospect Ave (Rt-in, Rt-out)	Fortune Dr (Cul de Sac)	17th Ave (Rt-in, Rt-out)



TYPICAL FINISHED SECTION - URBAN
CTH T

ICE – Intersection Control Evaluation

- Key Consideration – CTH T Corridor Future Year Traffic Forecast
- Implementation of cost-effective alternatives
- Emphasis on objective performance metrics
- Integration of safety into all decisions for intersection control
- Consistent documentation for NEPA compliance and public engagement

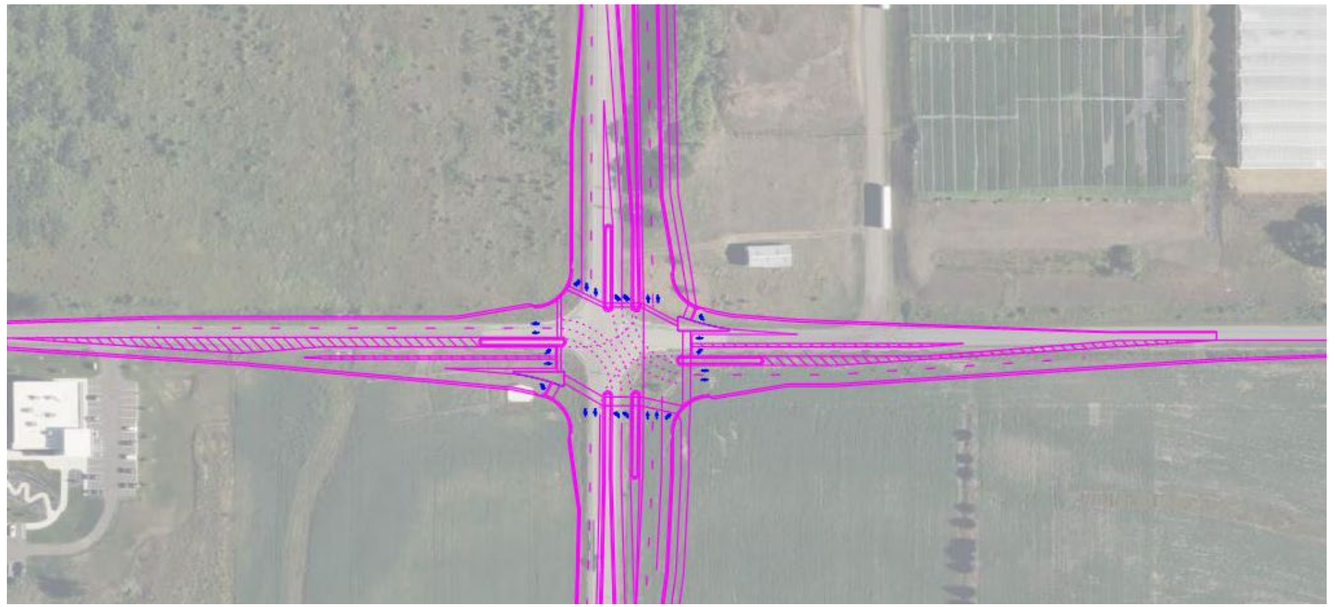
ICE Alternatives

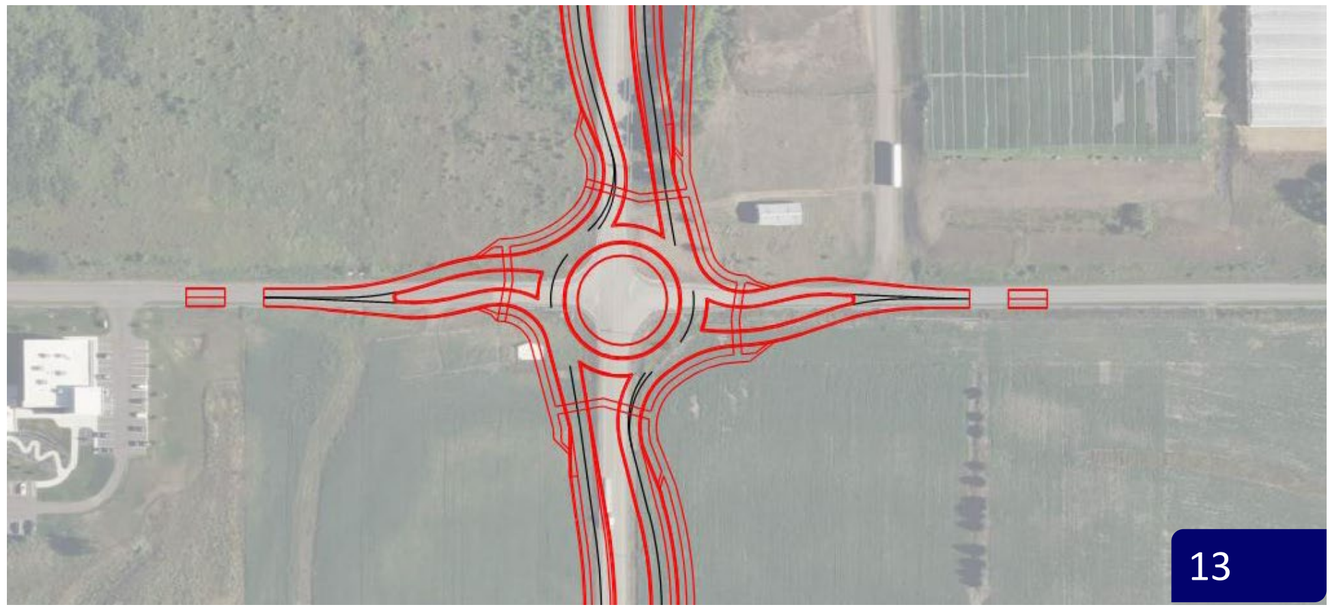
Traffic Signal - General

- Predictable traffic management
- Higher anticipated speeds
- Greater crash severity, likely less overall
- Increased maintenance

Roundabout - General

- Improved safety performance (severe crash reduction ~80%)
- Drivers required to yield and find gaps
- More efficient during off-peak hours
- Promote lower corridor speeds





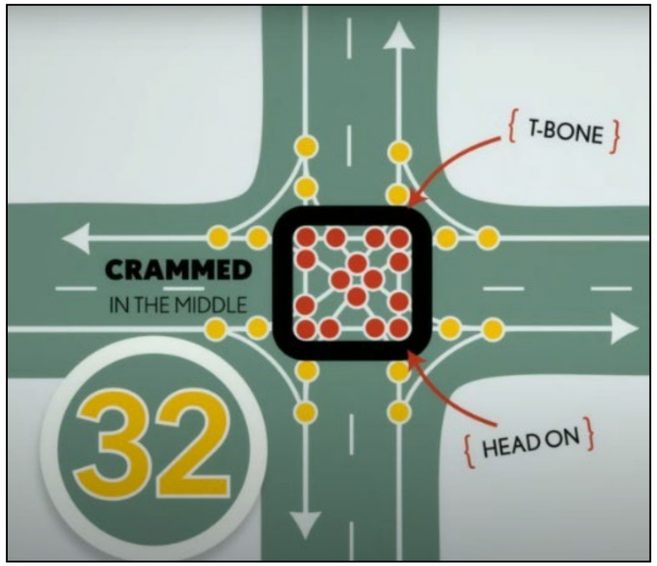
ICE Evaluation Parameters

- Safety performance
- Operational performance
- Multimodal considerations
- Access management and corridor uniformity on CTH T
- Construction costs
- Environmental impacts
- Freight accommodation
- Right-of-way impacts
- Public and local official feedback

ICE Safety & Operational Analysis

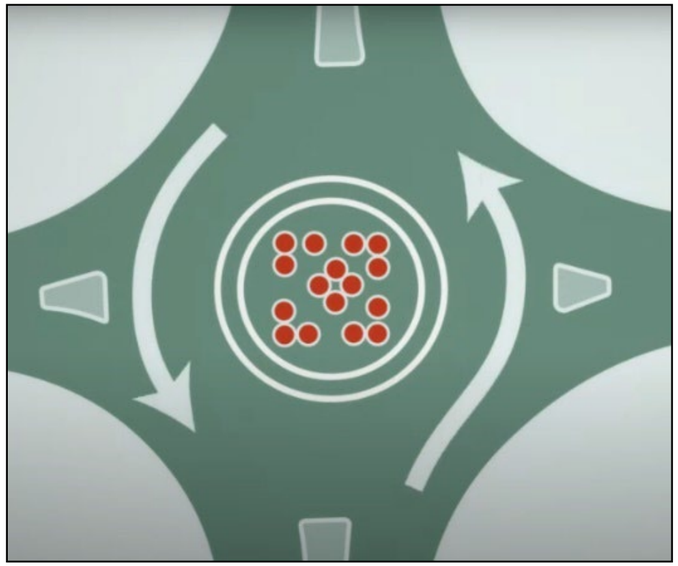
Traffic Signal - General

- IHSDM benefit/cost analysis
- Conflict Points
  - Signal: 32
  - Roundabout: 8
  - Crash Severity

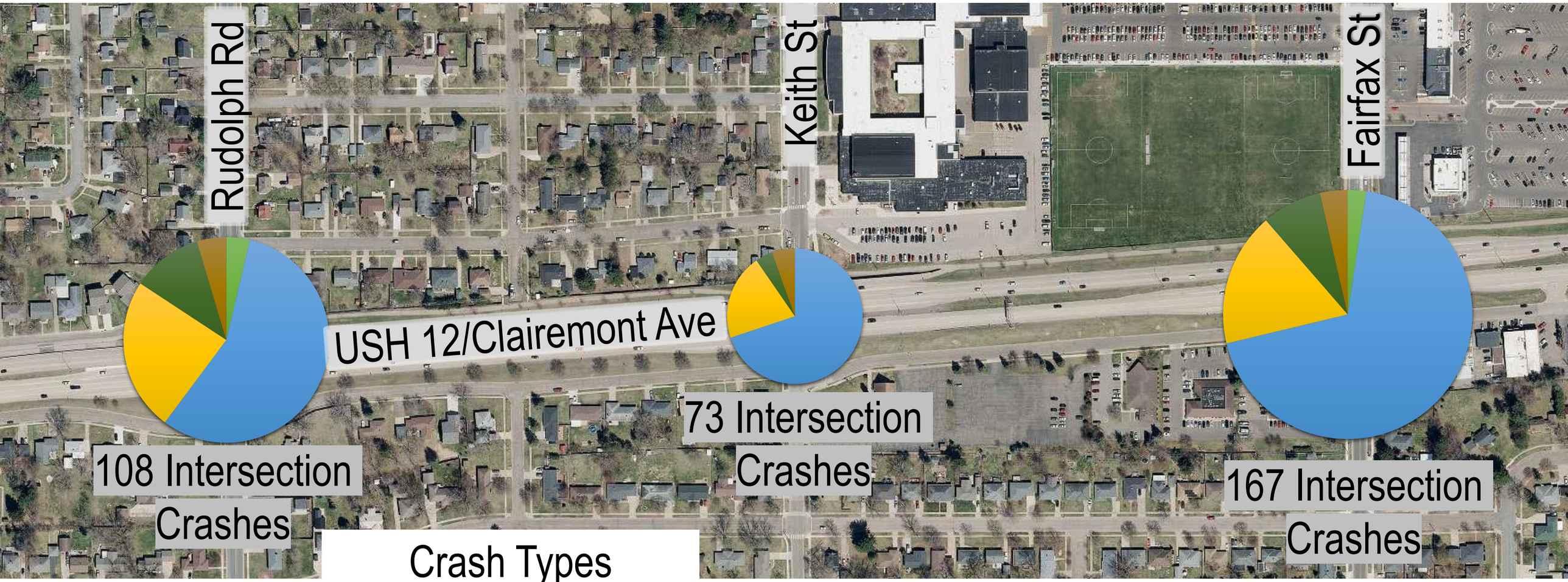


Traffic Operations

- Synchro, HCS sensitivity analysis
- Sensitivity analysis performed for 2036 and 2046



USH 12 Corridor Crashes (2017-2024)



ICE Recommendations and Discussion

Fewer severe injury crashes

Acceptable operations for most future year scenarios

Multi-use path around roundabout

Allows for access restrictions between intersections via U-turns

Simple scalability – construction of right turn bypass lanes

Less environmental impact than signal

Manageable accommodation of freight traffic

Comparable overall right-of-way impacts

More efficient operationally in “off peak” hours

COMMUNITY INPUT IMPORTANT

- **Feedback / Comments are Greatly Appreciated**
  - We realize there are significant impacts associated with this project.
  - We are interested in your feedback and open to ideas.
    - We have limited funding and realize we cannot address every concern.
    - We have state and federal standards we need to adhere to in order to receive funding.
    - We have design standards and safety criteria we need to meet.

OPEN-HOUSE MEETING FORMAT

- **Stations**
  - Main Exhibits – Cover entire project corridor
  - Roundabouts / Traffic

- **Project Representatives**
  - Eau Claire County
  - Chippewa County
  - Town of Wheaton
  - Town of Union
  - City of Eau Claire
  - Jewell Associates – Design Firm
  - KL Engineering – Design Firm

NEXT STEPS

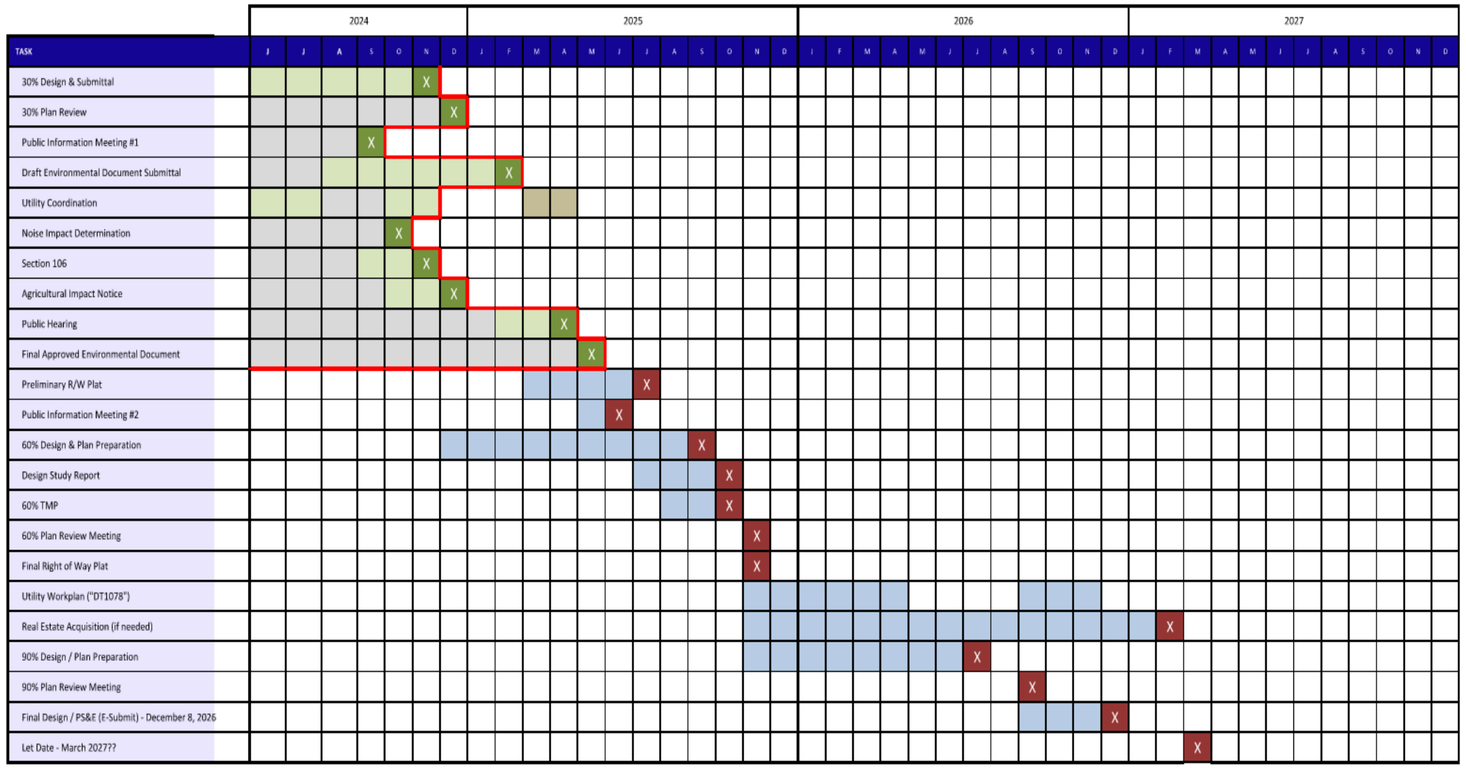
- Review and Evaluate Comments
- Finalize Environmental Document > Public Hearing
- Continue to Update & Refine Design
- Develop Right of Way Plat for Phase 1 of Project
- Prepare Final Plans and Bid Documents for Phase 1

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

- 30% Plans (Entire Corridor)
  - End of 2024
- Environmental Document (Entire Corridor)
  - Spring of 2025
- Preliminary Plans (60%) – Phase 1 (17th – 33rd)
  - Fall of 2025
- Right of Way Plat – Phase 1
  - Fall of 2025
- Final Plans – Phase 1
  - End of 2026
- Begin Construction – Phase 1
  - 2027

PHASE 1: 17TH AVENUE TO 33RD AVENUE

CTH T
CHIPPEWA COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024



CLOSING REMARKS

- **Staff Available Here Tonight Until 7 pm±**

- **Comment Forms Available**

  Complete Tonight or Mail / Email to Us by October 9th

Thank You For Your Attendance And Participation!

THANK YOU

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