

Motorized Recreation Grant Application

For: (choose all that apply)

Form 8700-159 (R 02/2024)

Page 1 of 5

☒ ATV/UTV Trail Aid

☐ Snowmobile Trail Aid

Due Date: April 15

Notice: Completion of this form is required under Wisconsin Statutes 23.09(26) and 23.33. Failure to complete this form will result in denial of financial assistance. Personally identifiable information found on this form is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may provide this information to requesters as required by Wisconsin's Public Records law {ss. 19.31 – 19.39, Wis. Stats.}.

Instructions: Applications may combine more than one source of funds. They may be submitted for consideration of traditional ATV, UTV, Snowmobile and Motorized Stewardship funding. Submit one copy of all forms and attachments. See Page 2 for necessary attachments. Send applications to your [Community Services Specialist](#).

DNR Use Only	
Category	Number

Section 1: Applicant Information

Applicant / Organization Name			Check Recipient: Individual other than authorized individual to act on behalf of the applicant. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select if the same as applicant.		
Washburn County					
Individual Authorized to Act on Behalf of Applicant per Resolution			Check Recipient Name (Name to Appear on Check)		
Brandon Shutt			Brandon Shutt		
Title			Title		
Assistant Recreation Administrator			Assistant Recreation Administrator		
Address			Address		
1760 Roundhouse Road			1760 Roundhouse Road		
City	State	ZIP Code	City	State	ZIP Code
Spooner	WI	54801	Spooner	WI	54801
Telephone Number		Email Address			
(715) 635-4490		bshutt@co.washburn.wi.us			

Section 2: Project Information Required for all Projects

Project Title					Current Funded Miles	New Miles (if applicable)
US 53 Potato Creek Underpass						
County	Township	Range	Section	¼ ¼	¼	GPS Coordinates:
Washburn	39 N	<input type="radio"/> E <input checked="" type="radio"/> W	2	NW	SW	Lat. 45.892 Long. -91.8276

Project Description Summary

Trail 7 is a main ATV/Snowmobile connection in central Washburn County, linking the Wild River Trail, Trego, Casey Loop and Burnett County. Trego is an important connector as the next nearest gas and services are either 15 miles north or 7 miles south. WisDOT re-constructed the interchange between US 53/63 at Trego in 2021/2022. Despite written assurances from WisDOT that a trail connection would be restored, 1 mile of Trail 7, including a recreation bridge over Potato Creek was obliterated. This is year 2 of project applications.

We are pursuing the underpass under Highway 53. The project estimate is \$1,876,985. The Snowmobile program has allocated \$127,500. ATV has allocated \$449,869.22. The total cost need is \$1,299,615.78. This should be a shared ATV/Snowmobile project and we are only seeking 50% cost share from ATV. The remaining requested ATV balance is \$488,623. We will continue to pursue options for a snowmobile cost share.

☐ I certify that all maintenance land use agreements are on file.

Estimated Cost

Maintenance	Acquisition	Insurance	Development	Bridge Rehab.	Trail Rehab.	Total Estimated Cost
			\$488,623.00			\$488,623.00
Leave Blank – DNR Use Only						

Applicant Certification

Printed Name of Authorized Official	Official's Title
Brandon Shutt	Assistant Recreation Administrator

As the applicant's authorized official, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true and correct.

Brandon Shutt

Signature of Authorized Official

4/1/2025

Date Prepared

Appendix B – Required for Trail/Qualified Trout Rehab, Reroute, or Development

☐ Trail Rehab ☐ Qualified Trout ☐ New Trail ☒ Trail Reroute (Mandatory or Discretionary)

County	Township	Range	Section	1/4 1/4	1/4	GPS Coordinates:
Washburn	39 N	12	2	NW	SW	Lat. 45.892 Long. -91.8276
Funded Trail Name or Number (SNARS if applicable)			Has this trail ever received development or rehabilitation funds in the past?			
Trail 7			<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Year: 2001 \$ 6,850.00			

Trail is located on:	Length of Easement or Landowner Use Agreement	Expiration Date
<input type="radio"/> Private property <input checked="" type="radio"/> Public property	years	

Landowner Where Trail is Located	Telephone Number
WisDOT Wild River Trail, WisDOT ROW, portion private	

What other recreational trail uses are planned for this trail?

Snowmobile

If there are other Recreational uses planned, how much of the trail development/rehab. cost will be paid for by other users?

How many miles would be affected if this project is not funded?	Will this result in closure of a trail?
33	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Is this a critical section to the overall trail system?	Is there a reasonable alternative?
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	No

Does any section of this trail contain a bridge?	Will this bridge require rehabilitation now or in the next few years?	What is the weight of your puller & drag/grading equipment?
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	lbs.

- ☐ Yes ☒ No Have you contacted your local [DNR Water Management Specialist \(WMS\)](#) regarding a permit?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Is a permit needed? (Please provide any written correspondence from WMS.)
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Will this project be located near or cross any intermittent or perennial waterway? [Surface Water Data Viewer](#)
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Will this project be located near or cross any wetland?
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Will this project involve land disturbance – including clearing and grubbing – of 1 acre or more of land? (Less than 4/10th mile for a typical trail) [DNR Storm Water Contact List](#)

Trail Project Detailed Description

This project is a crossing under both the north and southbound lanes of US Highway 53. The highway crosses Potato Creek at this location and our engineer has determined there is sufficient room to construct retaining walls adjacent to the creek, under the highway bridge to accommodate a 14 foot wide trail. This option also requires construction of new trail connections intersecting the Wild River Trail and the trail adjacent of the Mobil gas station. The design also requires a retaining wall against the west ROW in order to accommodate a tight turn between wetlands and a slope in the ROW.

There are numerous permitting issues associated with this option and these will be vetted once we have secured funding. WDNR is concerned about impacts to Potato Creek, but they have committed to permitting the project.

We have not completed engineering but have a conceptual design. We are not willing to invest in the final plans until we have all necessary funds committed.

Recreation Grant Project Cost Estimate Worksheet

Form 8700-014 (R 02/23)

Page 1 of 2

For use with Recreation Grant Application Forms

Project Name:		Prepared By:	Date
US 53 Potato Creek Underpass		Mike Peterson	04/03/2024
County	Project Applicant:	Landowner Name	<input checked="checked" type="radio"/> Public
Washburn	Washburn County Forestry	WisDOT	<input type="radio"/> Private

[illegible]

NOTE:

- For development projects, contingency and indirect costs are not eligible expenses.
- For acquisition projects, complete the Acquisition Project Cost Estimate Section of this form.



WASHBURN COUNTY

WISCONSIN

WASHBURN COUNTY

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

1760 Roundhouse Road • Spooner, WI 54870
(715) 635-4490 • Fax (715) 388-7947

NARRATIVE – MANDATORY TRAIL RELOCATION ATV/SNOWMOBILE GRANTS TRAIL 7 – WILD RIVER TRAIL WEST

BACKGROUND: Trail 7 is a snowmobile and year round ATV/UTV trail. It runs west from the Wild River Trail, connects to the only gas and services within 7 miles, and continues west linking to Burnett County. Snowmobile connections are all off road. ATV's have about 4 miles of road route to connect to the off road Casey Loop trail system. *(See attached Map 1)*. WisDOT announced plans to reconstruct the US 53/63 interchange in 2015 and initial plans showed a project overlap with the eastern-most 1 mile of Trail 7. The designs indicated a frontage road bridge lying on the same footprint as a recreational trail bridge over Potato Creek. *(See attached Map 2 & Map 3)*

Countless hours working with WisDOT in public input meetings resulted in a written assurance from them that an off-road trail connection for trail 7 would be designed into the project. More specifically we were assured of a flat bottom ditch line and a lane on the frontage road bridge for recreation traffic. When construction was initiated in 2021, it was obvious that these items were removed from the final construction plans.

ISSUES: After project completion, WisDOT repeatedly asserted that their intention was for trail traffic to operate on the surface of the frontage road or in the ditch line. Due to extensive guardrails, snowmobiles need to travel over 700 feet in order to cross the bridge. ATV's need to run on the roadway and the local Town does not want them operating on this busy section of road. *(See attached Photo 1)*

The ditch lines are extremely steep and covered with heavy rip-rap. Washburn County contracted with an engineer to redevelop the ditch to accommodate recreation traffic, only to find that WisDOT authorized a buried natural gas pipe in the centerline of the proposed route. Running on the roadway is further exacerbated by WisDOT retaining control of roundabouts and connections and not allowing recreational vehicle traffic. *(See attached Photos 2 and 3)*

The final issue relates to safety. Trail users are forced to cross 4 lanes of high speed traffic at only one approved location. The remainder of the project area has crash barriers installed between the lanes running south from Trego. The crossing location is likely to be closed once 53 is upgraded from expressway to freeway. Trail maintenance is complicated due to the median being too narrow to stop the groomer without impeding traffic lanes.

Washburn County engaged legislative assistance and a constructive meeting with WisDOT agents was held last fall. They are now cooperating in efforts to restore trail connections.

TRAIL OPTIONS

The issue with restoring trail 7 is complicated by WisDOT's design that has the trail crossing well south of Potato Creek, at the Mackie Creek Frontage Road intersection with Highway 53. One of our prior plans was to re-design the ditch line of the frontage road and construct a recreation trail bridge adjacent to the road bridge. The steepness of the ditch lines, coupled with the heavy rip-rap throughout, makes this complicated. This option was abandoned once the natural gas distribution line was placed in the ROW. We cannot operate equipment over the top of this pipe.

We began researching options for crossing Highway 53 north of Potato Creek. This would eliminate the need for a recreation trail bridge over the stream. An at grade crossing is dangerous and DOT has denied requests to construct such a crossing due to concrete crash barriers separating the traffic lanes along this entire length of roadway. This left us with only one obvious option of constructing a bridge over the Highway.

We contracted with Ayres and Associates to develop feasibilities, consult with DOT and create probable cost estimates for crossing the Highway. They created two options, one a bridge and the other an underpass. This grant application considers only the trail underpass structure. *(see Ayres Document 1 & 2 for detail, Photos 4 & 5 and Map 4)*

OPTION 1A:TRAIL UNDER 53 STRUCTURE AT POTATO CREEK (low profile)

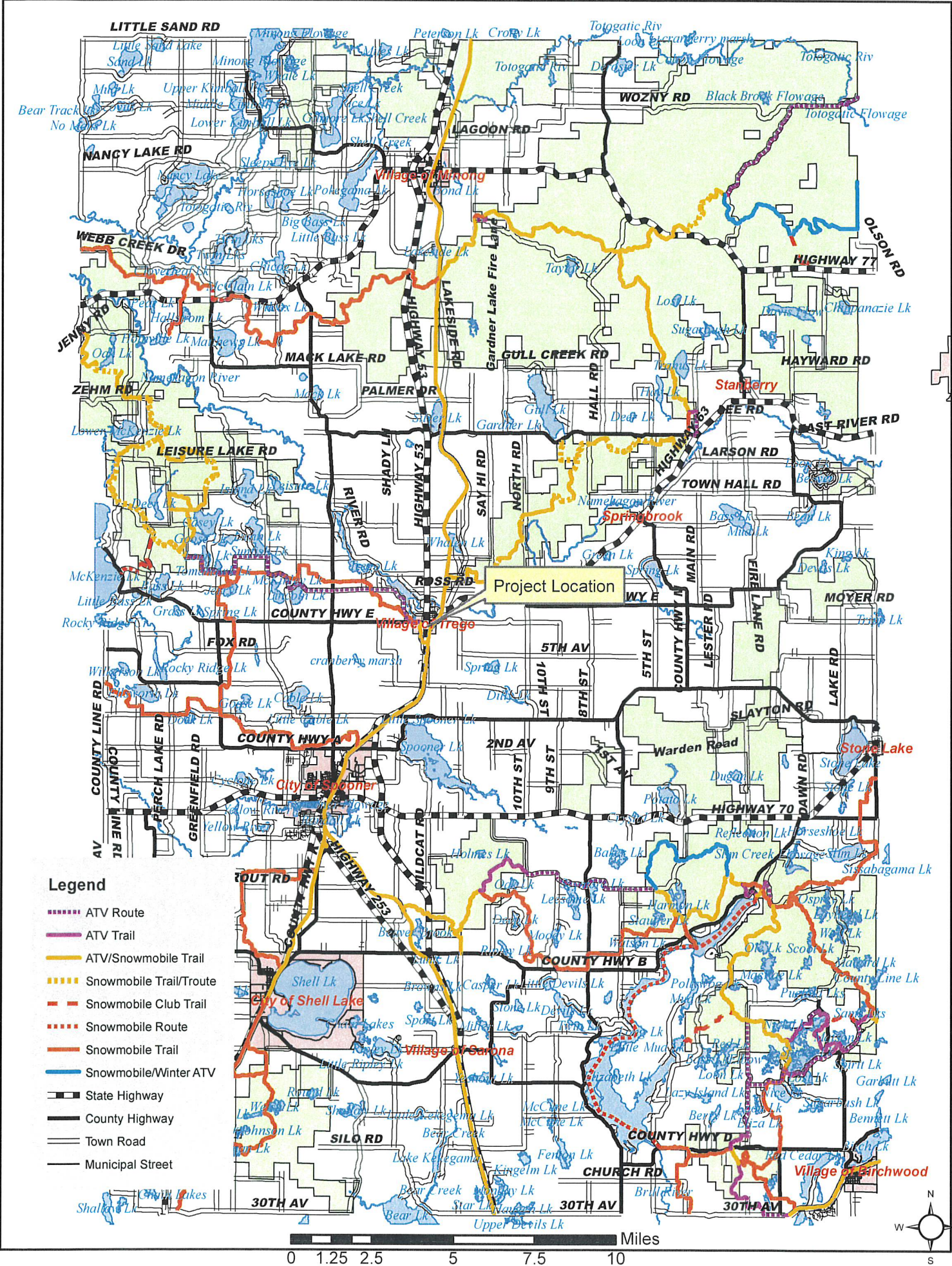
Cost estimate: \$1,900,000

This option includes a 10 to 11' retaining wall, which might be problematic as it could interfere with the stability of the highway bridge during construction. The advantage is that this gives us the highest vertical clearance.

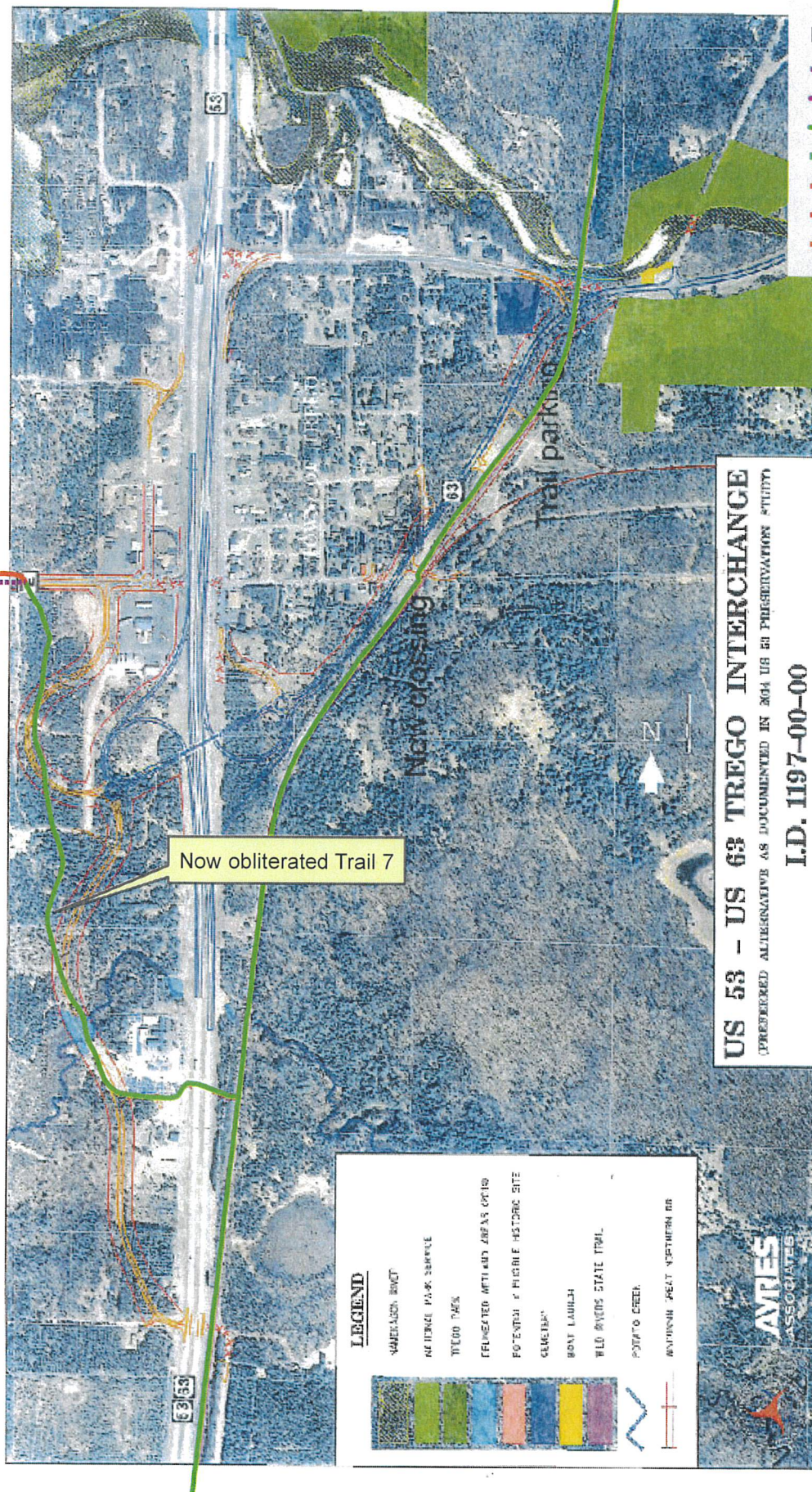
REQUESTED ACTION

We are asking the Councils to help fund this project, at least with partial allocations of additional grant monies. Please note that \$255,000 was awarded for the original plan of constructing a recreation bridge adjacent to the frontage road. (50/50 snow/ATV). Part of this grant has been spent on engineering.

The ORV Council awarded \$272,369 in August 2024 and an additional \$50,000 in December 2024. This leaves a remaining project need of \$1,322,630.78.

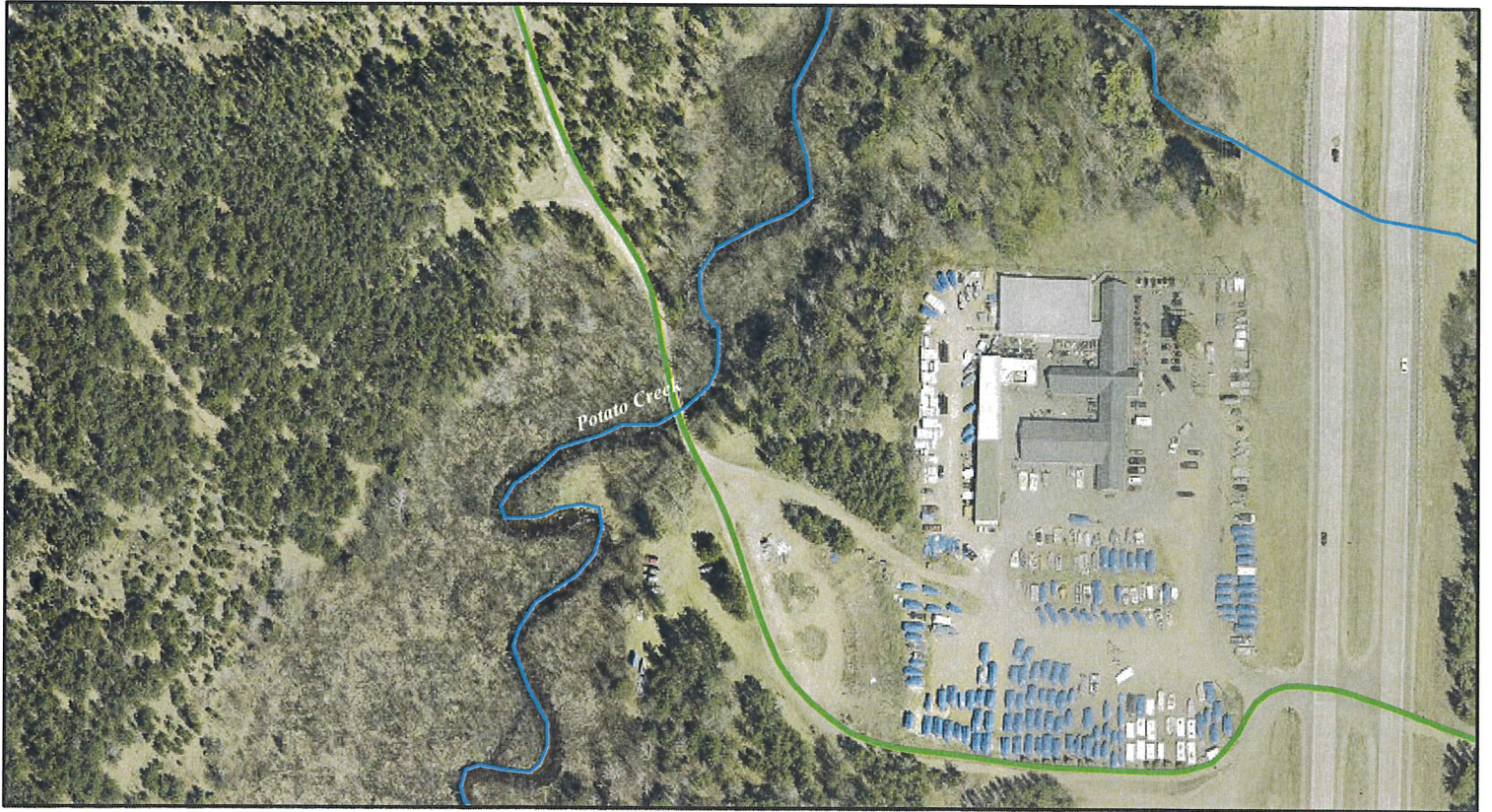
[illegible]

Map 2: WisDOT Construction Plans



Map 3: WisDOT Bridge Construction

Original Trail



New construction



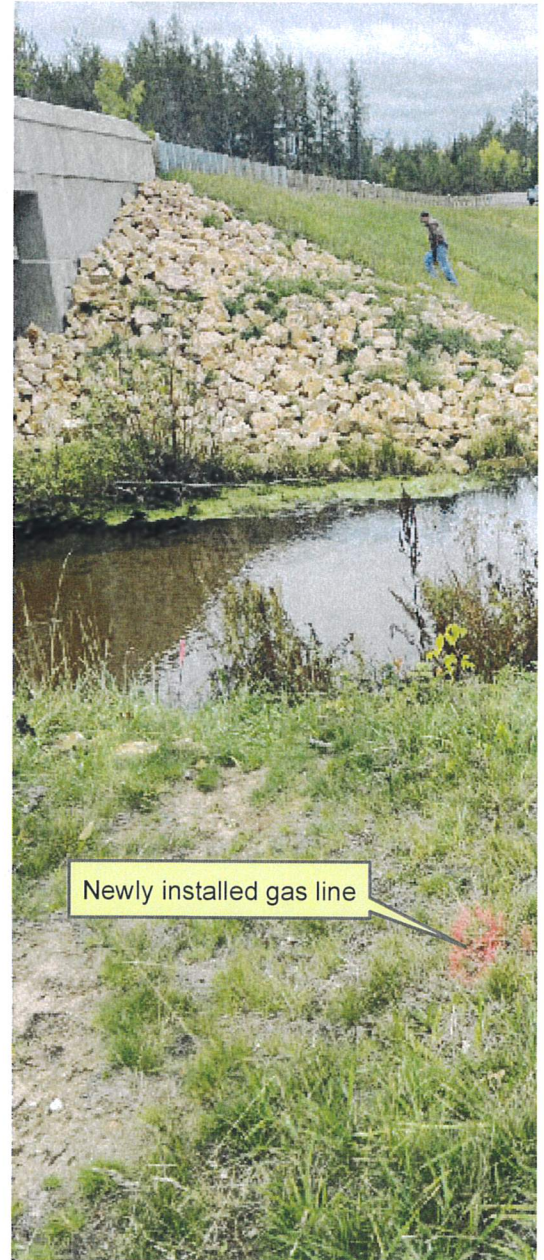
Photo 1 - Aerial of New Bridge



Photo 2 - Ditchline looking south



Photo 3 - Ditchline I



Illustrates "flat bottom" ditches installed by WisDOT

MEMORANDUM

To: Washburn County Forestry Department

From: Ayres

Date: April 1, 2024

Project No.: 41-0894.00

Re: Trego Trail Options

The Washburn County Forestry Department requested that Ayres evaluate some alternatives for a grade-separated crossing of the ATV/Snowmobile Trail with USH 53/63 south of the Trego Interchange. Based on discussions with the County and WisDOT two options were taken forward for evaluation and cost estimates. An option with the Trail going over USH 53 and an option with the trail going under the USH 53 structure over Potato Creek. The trail option under the structure has two alternatives for retaining walls. The alternatives are described in more detail below:

Option 1A – Trail Under USH 53 Structure over Potato Creek (Lower Profile)

This option provides a trail that connects the existing Wild River State Trail to Mackey Road by going under USH 53/USH 63 at the Potato Creek structures. There is an existing flat area under the structure that would be widened to 14' to allow the trail under the structure. This would require a retaining wall of 10-11' height to be constructed under the structure.

Cost

The estimated cost for this alternative is \$1,900,000. This cost includes Construction, Design Engineering, and Construction Engineering.

Benefits

- This alternative is a lower cost than a structure over USH 53.
- No lane closures or traffic control on USH 53/63 are anticipated for this alternative.
- Vertical clearance is estimated to be approximately 17'. The trail's tractor for grooming is almost 10' tall.

Challenges

- This alternative requires a 10-11' retaining wall to be constructed under the existing structure. This can be problematic for the temporary shoring of the embankment in front of the existing abutment.
- Need to confirm with survey that fill will avoid the flood plain of Potato Creek.
- The curves of the trail to get under the structure will be tight and sight distance may be a concern.
- Need to maintain the drainage from USH 53 ditches to Potato Creek.
- Potential DNR concerns with the trail running adjacent to Potato Creek due to erosion or loss of the existing critter crossing under the structure.

Option 1B – Trail Under USH 53 Structure over Potato Creek (Higher Profile)

This option provides a trail that connects the existing Wild River State Trail to Mackey Road by going under USH 53/USH 63 at the Potato Creek structures. There is an existing flat area under the structure that would be widened to 14' to allow the trail under the structure. This would require two retaining walls on each side of the trail. An approximate 5' tall retaining wall on the south side of the trail and an

approximate 4' tall retaining wall on the north side of the trail. Railing will be required along the trail's south side to protect the drop off from the retaining wall.

Cost

The estimated cost for this alternative is \$1,600,000. This cost includes Construction, Design Engineering, and Construction Engineering.

Benefits

- This alternative is a lower cost than a structure over USH 53 and Option 1A.
- No lane closures or traffic control on USH 53/63 are anticipated for this alternative.

Challenges

- This alternative has a vertical clearance of approximately 11'-12'. The trail's tractor for grooming is almost 10' tall.
- While not as challenging as Option 1A, temporary shoring of the embankment in front of the existing abutment will be required.
- Need to confirm with survey that fill will avoid the flood plain of the Potato Creek.
- The curves of the trail to get under the structure will be tight and sight distance may be a concern.
- Need to maintain the drainage from USH 53 ditches to Potato Creek.
- Potential DNR concerns with the trail running adjacent to Potato Creek due to erosion or loss of the existing critter crossing under the structure..

Option 2 – Trail Over USH 53 with a two-span structure

This option provides a trail that connects the existing Wild River State Trail to Mackey Road by going over USH 53/USH 63 north of the Potato Creek structures. The structure would meet the 17'4" minimum clearance over USH 53/USH 63. The median pier would be protected by the existing concrete barrier along southbound lanes. New beam guard would be required along the northbound median lanes to protect the pier. The median pier would be placed in a location to meet at least the minimum lateral clearance requirements for a pier protected by beam guard and concrete barrier. The abutments would be placed outside of the USH 53 clear zone and would not need to be protected by beam guard.

Cost

The estimated cost for this alternative is \$4,300,000. This cost includes Construction, Design Engineering, and Construction Engineering.

Benefits

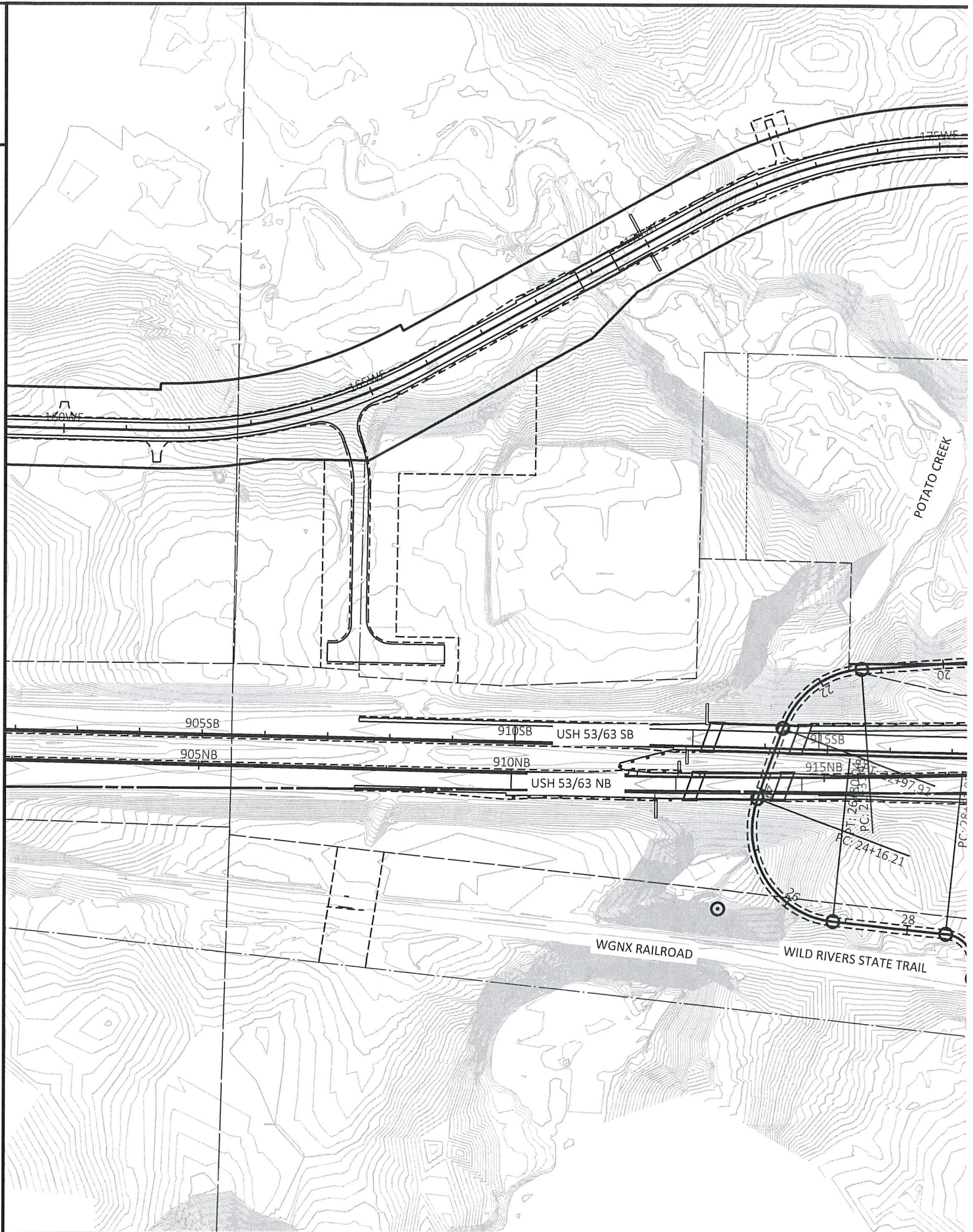
- Shorter trail to connect with less curves.
- Does not impact the drainage along USH 53.
- Impacts are not near Potato Creek

Challenges

- Construction will require lane closures on USH 53/63 for pier construction as well as overhead work.
- This alternative has a higher construction cost as well as an estimated higher maintenance cost.
- Alignment may need to be shifted further south as we develop structure footing plans to avoid impacts to the existing concrete barrier along southbound lanes.

Conclusions

Both options appear to be viable to proceed to the next phase of design. The County will be applying for funding for this project based on these options. A second meeting with WisDOT will be planned to include WisDOT structures, and WisDOT environmental staff to further discuss the challenges.



PROJECT NO:

HWY: USH 53

COUNTY: WASHBURN

FILE NAME : I:\41\410894_TREGO TRAIL\C3D\SHEETPLAN\TREGO TRAIL PO.DWG
LAYOUT NAME - TREGO TRAIL PO

PLOT DATE :

Photos 4, 5 Potato Creek Underpass Area



Trego Trail Option #1A

General estimate notes:

- 9 Key Quantities are used as basis for "Major Construction" items
- Costs are based on December 2023 - February 2024 bid tab information