

Oconto River Bridge Project

Smyth Road over the North Branch Oconto River

WisDOT ID: 9077-04-00



Project Update - Autumn 2025

The **project team** has been evaluating potential alternatives for the North Branch Oconto River Bridge. Currently, four alternatives are under consideration:

- Alt 1. No Build (used as a baseline to compare alternatives)
- Alt 2. Bridge Rehabilitation for Vehicular Use while Maintaining Historic Integrity
- Alt 3. New Bridge on Existing Alignment
- Alt 4A. New Bridge Adjacent North

The evaluation factors include impacts to the historic bridge, cost, need to acquire small amounts of private property, and environmental impacts to the river. As a result of this analysis, a preferred alternative has been provisionally identified:

Alternative 3: New Bridge on Existing Alignment. While this alternative requires the removal of the historic bridge, there are fewer impacts to the river, no private property acquisitions and a lower cost compared to other alternatives. The table below provides a detailed view into the different evaluation factors being considered and how each alternative compares. The best performing alternative on each factor is shown with bold text.



Evaluation Factor	Alt 1. No Build	Alt 2. Rehabilitate for Vehicular Use	Alt 3. New Bridge on Existing Alignment	Alt 4A. New Bridge Adjacent North
Permanent Wetland Fill (including in-stream fill)	0	0	0.011 Acres	0.204 Acres
Temporary Wetland Fill (including in-stream fill)	0	0	0.003 Acres	0.003 Acres
Permanent Property Acquisition	0	0	0	0.833 Acres
Property Cost (Permanent)	0	0	0	\$2,400 ¹
Temporary Property Use	0	0	0	0
Relocations	0	0	0	0
Construction Cost	Maintenance costs only	\$2,450,000	\$1,050,000	\$3,500,000
Expected Lifespan	-	35 years	75 years	75 years
Impacts to Historic Resources	Eventual loss of integrity	No Impact	Adverse Impact	No Impact

¹Cost estimate is based on 2025 assessed value of property as listed on the Oconto County land information website and is used only to compare the alternatives. Actual acquisition cost may differ.

We would like to hear from you!

Keep updated on the project or contact the project team on the county website by scanning the QR code, or following this link <https://www.ocontocountywi.gov/284/Highway-Department>. We are particularly interested in any comments you may have on the historic nature of the bridge.

