

Bridge Closure Date:
September 3, 2013



Construction Completion Date:
June 2014

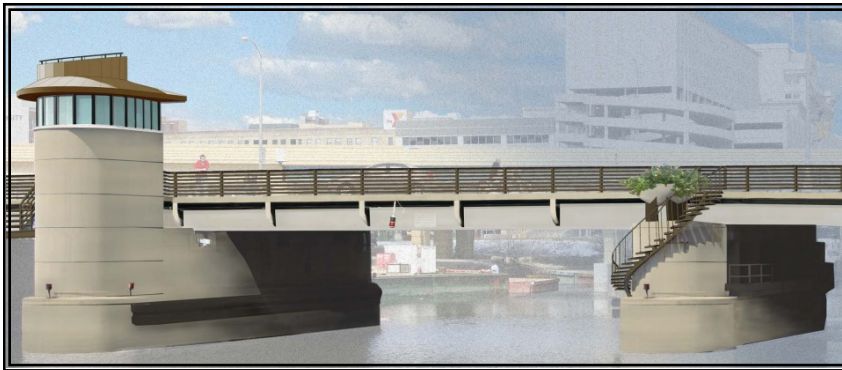
milwaukee.gov/supportforbusiness

Rehabilitation of the St. Paul Avenue Vertical Lift Bridge over the Milwaukee River

Facts and Frequently asked Questions

Project Overview:

The St. Paul Avenue Vertical Lift Bridge over the Milwaukee River will be rehabilitated from September 3, 2013 through June 2014. The bridge was originally built in 1966. The work includes replacement of the steel lift span; new concrete deck at approach spans; sandblasting and painting steel members; hydraulic, mechanical and electrical upgrades; concrete repairs of abutments and piers; and asphalt paving. Architectural enhancements include a new bridge house roof, new pedestrian railing, and new pier planters.



Rendering of the proposed architectural enhancements to the St. Paul Avenue Vertical Lift Bridge.

Project History:

Bloom Companies was hired to design the new elements of the St. Paul Avenue Vertical Lift Bridge. As part of the public input, meetings were held with members of the Historic Third Ward and stakeholders in the surrounding areas. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) was also involved, since the I-794/Hoan Bridge project will overlap the bridge rehabilitation work. A Public Information Meeting was held on June 6, 2012 at the Milwaukee Public Market. Invitations were sent to residents and businesses in the Historic Third Ward and neighboring stakeholders. The invitation was also sent to various downtown organizations who in turn sent it to their members. Renderings of the proposed changes to the bridge were on display. Staff from Bloom Companies and the Department of Public Works (DPW) attended to answer questions from participants.

Detour Route:

The bridge will be closed to traffic during the construction. Eastbound traffic will be directed through North Plankinton Avenue, West Michigan Street, and North Water Street. Westbound traffic will be directed through North Water Street, West Clybourn Street, and North 2nd Street. An aggressive construction schedule is proposed to reduce traffic impact.

The Riverwalk under the bridge will remain open except during construction activities for the eastern most bridge span and the east abutment. Pedestrians wishing to cross the Milwaukee River will be directed to the Clybourn St. Bridge. A navigation lane on the river will remain open for boat traffic.

Project Contract:

DPW has included language in the contract for Incentive/Disincentive provisions that rewards the contractor if the roadway is opened to traffic early. Conversely, the contractor would be subject to a reduction of payment with no maximum limit if the bridge opening is delayed.

FAQs

Q: When will the bridge be closed and for how long?

A: The bridge will be closed to traffic on September 3, 2013, right after Labor Day and will open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic in June 2014.

Q: How will the City ensure that the bridge will not be closed longer than that?

A: The Department of Public Works (DPW) has included language in the contract to include Incentive/Disincentive provisions that rewards the contractor if the roadway is opened to traffic early. Conversely, the contractor would be subject to a reduction of payment with no maximum limit if the bridge opening is delayed.

Q: Why does this work have to be done at this time?

A: Built in 1966, this is Milwaukee's first vertical lift bridge and the structure, mechanical, hydraulics, and electrical components are in need of major upgrades. DPW plans to complete the project in nine months to avoid conflicts with work planned for the I-794 and Hoan Bridge project and major summer festivals at Maier Festival Park.

Q: What are the plans for pedestrian traffic?

A: Pedestrians wishing to cross the Milwaukee River will be directed to the Clybourn Street Bridge.

Q: What are the plans for traffic detours?

A: Eastbound traffic will be directed to use North Plankinton Avenue, West Michigan Street, and North Water Street. Westbound traffic will be directed to use North Water Street, West Clybourn Street, and North 2nd Street. Detour signs will be posted.

Q: Will the Clybourn Bridge be raised during rush hour traffic while the St. Paul Bridge is being re-habbed?

A: The Clybourn Street Bridge is generally restricted from opening during the morning rush from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and during the afternoon rush from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Q: Will the river be open to navigation during rehabilitation?

A: Yes, a navigation channel will remain open.

Q: Will the Riverwalk under the bridge be accessible?

A: The Riverwalk will be accessible except during construction activities for the east bridge span or the east abutment.

Q: What hours will the contractor work?

A: The contractor will be able to work from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Q: How will stakeholders be kept informed of progress on the bridge rehabilitation? And who do we contact with questions or concerns?

A: Cecilia Gilbert, DPW's Support for Business Liaison, is assigned to keep stakeholders informed of bridge rehabilitation activities. Updates will be provided on the Department's Support for Business website and the Historic Third Ward website. Ms. Gilbert can be reached by phone or email at the numbers listed below.



Support for Business Program: Cecilia Gilbert (414) 286-3318
Cecilia.Gilbert@milwaukee.gov

