



Department of Public Works

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Reconstruction of the Juneau Avenue Bridge will Begin on Monday, August 1st

The replacement of the Juneau Avenue Bridge over the Milwaukee River will begin on Monday August 1, 2011. The bridge will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic while remaining open to river navigational traffic at all times. Traffic detour routing will be posted. The Juneau Avenue closure will extend from North Edison Street to North Old World Third Street, however those intersections at East/West Juneau Avenue will remain open to traffic and pedestrians. Access to adjacent businesses, river walks, and docks will be maintained. The project is scheduled to be completed by November 16, 2012.

The movable bridge was built in 1953 and is a typical bascule bridge design with two bridge leaves that open to river traffic. The Department of Public Works completed emergency repair work in 2009 due to the harsh river environment and continued deterioration of steel decking and support components. The Department also imposed weight and traffic restrictions at that time.

This bridge construction project is being done in conjunction with the rehabilitation of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge, which is scheduled to start later this year. The \$25 million cost of both bridge projects is being partially funded with \$21.5 million dollars under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program administered through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). With the remainder of the project costs being covered by the WisDOT bridge program and City of Milwaukee funds. WisDOT awarded a design build contract for both bridges earlier this year to Edward Kraemer and Sons Inc., they have a Wisconsin regional office in Plain, Wisconsin.

The Juneau Bridge reconstruction will include removal of the entire existing bridge structure, piers, abutments, machinery and the existing bridge house. The new bridge design will be a vertical lift bridge similar to the Knapp Street Bridge to the north and other downtown bridges. The new design will also reduce the footprint of the bridge in the river and allow wider areas for river traffic to pass beneath. New roadway approaches to Edison and Old World Third Street will be constructed. Design features of the bridge include new railings, walkways, closed bridge deck, bridge house relocated to the northeast corner, new system controls, mechanics and lighting.

The construction of a new East/West Juneau Avenue Bridge will provide many years of reliable service to both river, vehicular and pedestrian traffic.