



March 10, 2022

Subject: Racine Street Bridge – Construction Update

(ID 4992-03-71, Racine St Bridge, City of Menasha, Fox River Bridge & Approaches, Winnebago County)

Construction of the new Racine Street Bridge in downtown Menasha is nearing the next major stage. **In late May/early June 2022, we expect to move into Stage 3 which involves construction of the Racine Street roundabouts at Main Street and Ahnaip Street. However, the city of Menasha expects to close the Racine Street & Main Street intersection in mid-late March to complete utility relocations in advance of Stage 3. Once that intersection closes to traffic, we expect the closure to remain in effect until the completion of Stage 3 in Fall 2022. There will also be some traffic impacts near the Ahnaip Street intersection while the city of Menasha completes utility work in that area. Please see the top of next page for a more detailed explanation of the full impacts of Stage 3.**

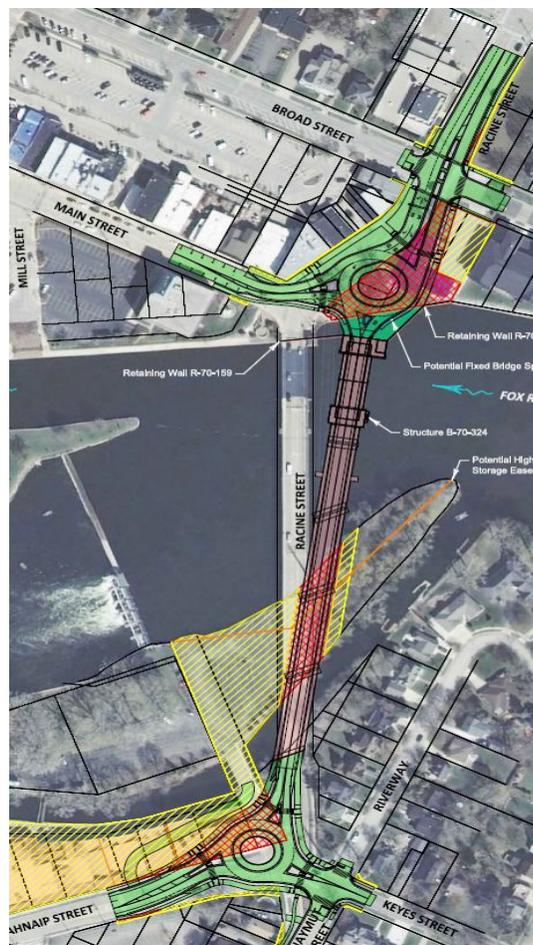
Project Overview: The existing Racine Street Bridge is being replaced with a new lift bridge that is generally located along the east side of the existing bridge (see layout at right). The improvement project also includes new roundabouts at the Racine Street intersections with Main Street on the north side of the river and Ahnaip Street on the south side of the river.

Other features of the bridge replacement project include:

- Improved safety across bridge for vehicles, bicyclists (5-foot bicycle lanes), and pedestrians (6-foot sidewalks)
- Improved traffic flow/boat passage: new auxiliary navigation channel with greater navigation clearance immediately south of bascule span will allow for less bridge openings
- Less future impacts: new bridge is anticipated to extend life roughly 75 years until next major improvement
- Aesthetic improvements: city of Menasha approved \$500,000 in local funds for aesthetic elements to be included in the project

Construction Schedule:

- Construction Start: October 2020
- Anticipated Construction Completion: Fall 2022



Traffic Impacts: Construction has been completed in three general stages.

- Stage 1 (October 2020 – September 2021) – Bridge OPEN
 - Racine Street Bridge and adjacent intersections remain open to traffic
 - Construction begins within river on new bascule span

- Stage 2 (September 2021 – May/June 2022) – Bridge CLOSED
 - Racine Street Bridge is closed to vehicle traffic
 - Racine Street intersections at Main Street and Ahnaip Street remain open
 - Continue construction of new bascule span and begin construction of fixed approach spans
 - Demolish and remove existing Racine Street Bridge
 - Detour - 3rd Street (WIS 114) to Tayco Street to Nicolet Blvd to Ahnaip Street
 - Navigation channel will be maintained for boaters until end of navigation season in mid-October 2021 although there may be very brief interruptions

- **Stage 3 (May/June 2022 – Fall 2022) – Bridge CLOSED**
 - **Racine Street Bridge is closed to vehicle traffic**
 - **Racine Street intersections at Main Street and Ahnaip Street are closed to vehicle traffic**
 - **Continue construction of new bascule span and fixed approach spans**
 - **Construct new roundabouts at Racine Street intersections with Main and Ahnaip Streets**
 - **Detour - 3rd Street (WIS 114) to Tayco Street to Nicolet Blvd to Ahnaip Street**

Much of the construction during the first year was within the river and had very little traffic impact. The contractor has staged its work from the north shore on the former Larsen dental office parcel and in a separate staging area on the south side of the river on the peninsula. Traffic impacts increased significantly with the start of Stage 2, and they will increase further during Stage 3. Please note that river navigation will still be maintained during the navigation season except for potentially very brief interruptions.

Construction Updates/Contact Information: The Racine Street Bridge Project construction website is up to date with the current project construction information. It includes an overview of construction, displays, exhibits, maps, detour routes, and anticipated staging dates and traffic impacts. The project website is a key source for any construction information. Please check frequently. The Northeast Region also provides a two-week snapshot of construction operations taking place on all its highway projects on the Northeast Region Weekly Highway Construction Update website (below).

WisDOT will continue to have an on-site engineer during construction who is the primary local contact for any daily issues or questions the website cannot answer. **Our on-site engineer is Kyle Witte, and he may be reached at 920-366-0920 or via email at kyle.witte@dot.wi.gov.** Our construction field office is located on the peninsula on the south side of the river. However, we ask that you please contact Kyle either via phone or email to limit in-person contact and maintain safety.

Links for our project website and other online information are shown below:

- Racine Street Bridge Project construction website: <https://projects.511wi.gov/racinebridge/>
- Northeast Region Weekly Construction Update: <https://projects.511wi.gov/weeklyupdates-ne/>
 - Updated Fridays online - Please email Kyle if you would like this emailed to your inbox.
- Northeast Region Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/WisDOTnortheast>
- 511 Wisconsin: <https://511wi.gov>

In closing, we would like to again remind everyone of the safety hazards around a construction project. Driving at a reduced speed and maintaining full attention will make it safer for everyone concerned. Our WisDOT staff and contractor are committed to delivering a high-quality new bridge while also doing our best to minimize inconvenience to businesses and residents during the construction phase. We ask for your continued patience and cooperation as we work toward that goal.

Bill Bertrand, P.E.
WisDOT Project Manager