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Preparations underway for 2016 construction season

As the days of winter wind down, project staff are gearing up for a busy and productive construction season this year. With more than fifteen projects planned throughout the 45-mile section of Interstate 39/90 and remaining alternate route improvements, we wanted to provide a brief overview of one project that will not only affect motorists, but also boaters and water enthusiasts on Lake Koshkonong and the Rock River.

Starting in March, crews will reconstruct the I-39/90 bridges over the Rock River, near Edgerton and Newville. This will take approximately two and a half years. Work will also occur in the river, and navigational buoys will be placed in the river to guide boaters through the construction zone. Periodically, the buoys will be relocated in the river as construction progresses. This area is no wake and boaters are asked to take extra caution when navigating this area. For everyone's safety, please be alert for construction crews and work taking place in the river. Please view a PDF of the [preliminary Rock River bridge staging plans](#).

Also starting in March, the I-39/90 and WIS 59 interchange (exit 163) in northern Rock County will be under construction with anticipated completion in November 2016. The interchange will be reconfigured into a diamond interchange with three roundabouts that will improve safety, efficiency and reduce overall congestion in the area.

Feel free to watch the narrated [drive-through video](#) or view the [interchange configuration](#) (PDF).

Learn more about the other 2016 construction projects on the [I-39/90 Project website](#), under the Schedule section. Be sure to periodically check the project website for any schedule updates.

Once these projects begin, weekly construction notifications will be distributed via email. Be sure to sign up for those updates! Just visit the project website or click on [Sign Up for Updates](#). You can also follow the [I-39/90 Project Facebook](#) page for progress updates.



Vehicles travel on I-39/90 northbound over the Rock River, near Edgerton and Newville.

Traffic shift set for mid-March 2016 on WIS 11 (Avalon Road), south of Janesville

Last fall, crews began construction on one of the new I-39/90 and WIS 11 (Avalon Road) interchange bridges, located north of the existing structure.

Weather permitting, crews will progress to the next stage of construction in mid-March 2016. At that time, all WIS 11 (Avalon Road) traffic will shift to the south side of the existing bridge, and the northern portion will be used for construction staging. Speeds will be reduced in this area. The new bridge is anticipated to be completed by early June 2016. Traffic will then move to the new bridge, and the existing structure will be removed and replaced in the same location. Crews will also work on pavement and other interchange improvements.

WIS 11 remains open to one lane in each direction at all times.

Access to and from the Interstate will be maintained.

Please be alert for construction crews, and slow down in work zones.

The new interchange design, a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI), will improve efficiency for all vehicles and enhance mobility with free-flow left turns onto the Interstate making it easier for all vehicles, including large trucks and oversize/overweight vehicles, to travel through this interchange. Learn more [about the DDI](#), including a narrated simulation video of how to navigate the new interchange.

This interchange project is scheduled to be completed in November 2016.



Bridge construction underway at the I-39/90 and WIS 11 (Avalon Road) interchange.



Register for project email updates:

www.i39-90.wi.gov

Behind-the-scenes look at a construction work zone

As you drive through construction work zones on I-39/90 and area highways between Beloit and Madison, we wanted to share information on why those barrels, signs and other traffic control devices have specific locations in a work zone.

In 1932, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Revised over the years, this manual is the governing law for all traffic control devices (i.e., barrels, barricades, signs, message boards, etc.) and MUTCD ensures that these devices are consistent and understandable across the nation. It also sets standards and provides guidance to local and state agencies as well as contractors. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has adopted the MUTCD and added the Wisconsin Supplement, which sets strict policies and practices on specific items to further protect site workers and the traveling public.

WisDOT Bureau of Traffic Operations formed a “Statewide Work Zone Committee,” comprised of seven work zone engineers from all five WisDOT regions who work with other traffic engineering experts to set safety standards for various types of construction work zones. FHWA approves those standards, and Transportation Management Plans (TMPs) are created for each WisDOT construction project which dictate the proper location and spacing of barrels and signs, as well as traffic staging. The TMPs are reviewed by WisDOT traffic units for accuracy, revised to address potential issues, and eventually approved for construction plan sets.



Roadway designers are responsible for creating the traffic control plan that will provide a safe route for traffic through the construction zone. Once construction begins, project teams, contractors and traffic units must ensure plans, policies and procedures are followed with periodic inspections and maintenance throughout the project. Minor traffic control changes may be necessary during the project to ensure safety of the traveling public and construction crews.

For everyone’s safety, be alert and slow down in all work zones.

Julie Harkinson is the president of Harkinson Consulting LLC, a Labor Compliance Services firm with offices in Middleton and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A graduate of Beloit College, Harkinson has put her unique stamp on providing labor compliance services for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) on construction projects throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Her firm is teamed with AECOM to assist WisDOT in labor compliance for the I-39/90 Expansion Project. The firm is also involved in the Verona Road Project and other projects throughout Wisconsin.

For the I-39/90 Project, Harkinson Consulting ensures that employees of contractors working on the project are paid the wages set in the contracts and that subcontracting firms are promptly paid. They start by providing contractors with detailed information on employment, wage and fringe benefits laws. The firm also monitors contractors' use of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certified firms as well as graduates of WisDOT's Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TrANS) labor program.

To confirm that the contractors comply with other laws related to individuals employed on the project, Harkinson Consulting and others routinely engage in on-site interviews with workers. Interviews certify that workers are receiving the correct wage for their job classification and that their employer has informed them about Equal Employment Opportunity laws. Her team also verifies that federal and state employment laws are appropriately posted at work locations and are accessible to employees. Harkinson Consulting representatives also routinely attend project pre-construction meetings.

As part of this compliance process, WisDOT and Harkinson Consulting partnered with Rock Road Companies to sponsor two training sessions held at Blackhawk Technical College in spring 2015. The sessions were open to all trucking companies and provided guidance on payroll, addressed the regional shortage of truck drivers and offered opportunities for participants to learn about DBE certification opportunities in Wisconsin.



From left to right in the photo are Labor Compliance Specialists Jennifer Lubinski, Julie Harkinson, and Crystal Wilson. Not pictured: Pat Kelly, Labor Compliance Assistant.

“The response to the event was positive and we have seen a reduction in some of the targeted issues which is very encouraging, although there is much still to be done to address the trucking shortage and need for more DBE firms in the region,” said Harkinson. “Through this experience, WisDOT has begun to build a stronger platform to communicate with firms regarding local hiring and the benefits of DBE-certification.” The training session was successful and garnered support and attendance from representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor and from various members of the construction industry.

Harkinson Consulting LLC values the great partnership with local businesses and community interests to provide labor compliance services for the I-39/90 Expansion Project.

About the Business

Company name: Harkinson Consulting LLC
Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
Established: 2010
Locations: Middleton, WI and Milwaukee, WI
Email: julie.harkinson@dot.wi.gov
Type of business: Labor Compliance Services
Owner: Julie Harkinson
Number of employees: Four
On the web: www.harkinsonconsulting.com
Other referenced programs:
[Labor and Wage Compliance](#)
[Transportation Alliance for New Solutions \(TrANS\)](#)
[Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program](#)



Paul Hammer (WisDOT Deputy Secretary), Julie Harkinson and Aggo Akyea (Director, WisDOT Office of Business Opportunity and Equity Compliance). In early February 2016, Julie received the department's business excellence award.



**Wisconsin Department
of Transportation**
I-39/90 Project
111 Interstate Blvd.
Edgerton, WI 53534-9399



I-39/90 Expansion Project Newsletter

WINTER 2016

Stay informed with segment open house meetings

As construction staff prepare for another active construction season, we want to keep you informed and involved about the construction plans in your area this year and beyond. The dates and times of the segment open house meetings are as follows:



North Segment – Edgerton to Madison
Wednesday, March 16, 2016 (4 – 7 p.m.)

Central Segment – Janesville to Edgerton
Tuesday, March 22, 2016 (3:30 - 6:30 p.m.)

South Segment – Beloit to Janesville
Late March/early April 2016.
Monitor project website for a date/time.

No formal presentations are scheduled; simply stop by at your convenience. Exhibits showing the proposed improvements will be on display and WisDOT representatives will be available to discuss the project on an individual basis.

The open houses will be held at the WisDOT Southwest Region Project Field Office located at 111 Interstate Blvd. in Edgerton, WI. Please enter through the east side of the building (Door B). If you cannot attend, contact us for a project update.

Connect with us!

Stay up-to-date on the I-39/90 Expansion Project. From construction updates to meeting notices and handouts, you can connect with us to get information in whichever way is most convenient.

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 [Facebook.com/WisconsinI3990Project](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinI3990Project)

Sign up for email updates on the project website.

Get real-time travel conditions by calling 511 or visiting, www.511wi.gov.

