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### Rock River Bridges project nearing completion

After two and a half years of work, the two new I-39/90 bridges spanning the Rock River near Edgerton and Newville are scheduled to be completed in late August/early September 2018 (weather permitting).

The replacement of the bridges began in early spring 2016 and, since then, this section of Interstate has undergone a significant transformation.

Replacement of these bridges posed momentous challenges including maintaining the flow of Interstate traffic throughout construction. It was also important to maintain local road access as much as possible as well as access to area businesses.

To accomplish this, crews reconstructed the WIS 59 interchange (Exit 163) immediately north of the Rock River bridges. This included realigning the interchange ramps, adding roundabouts and lengthening the interchange bridge over I-39/90 to accommodate the expansion of the Interstate below. Crews also worked to reconstruct and expand I-39/90 immediately adjacent to the north and south ends of the bridges spanning the Rock River.

While this work was underway, crews focused on replacing the existing Rock River bridges. To do so, the alignment of the new bridges was shifted slightly to the east so that crews could build half of the new northbound bridge



*A crew member applies stain to the bridge girder as work winds down on the Rock River bridges replacement project.*

adjacent to the existing northbound bridge to accommodate two lanes of traffic. When completed, traffic was shifted to the new bridge and the old northbound bridge was removed in late 2016 so the rest of the new northbound bridge could be built to accommodate four lanes of bi-directional traffic.

Once the other half of the northbound bridge was constructed, southbound Interstate traffic shifted to the new northbound bridge, with north and southbound motorists separated by a temporary barrier wall. This allowed crews to demolish the existing southbound bridge and begin construction of the new southbound bridge. When completed, southbound traffic will shift to the new structure. Eventually, three lanes will open in each direction over the river.

[Click here](#) to watch a time-lapse video of the Rock River bridge construction activities.

### 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.

☎ 608.884.1234

💻 [www.i39-90.wi.gov](http://www.i39-90.wi.gov)

✉ [I39-90Project@dot.wi.gov](mailto:I39-90Project@dot.wi.gov)

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

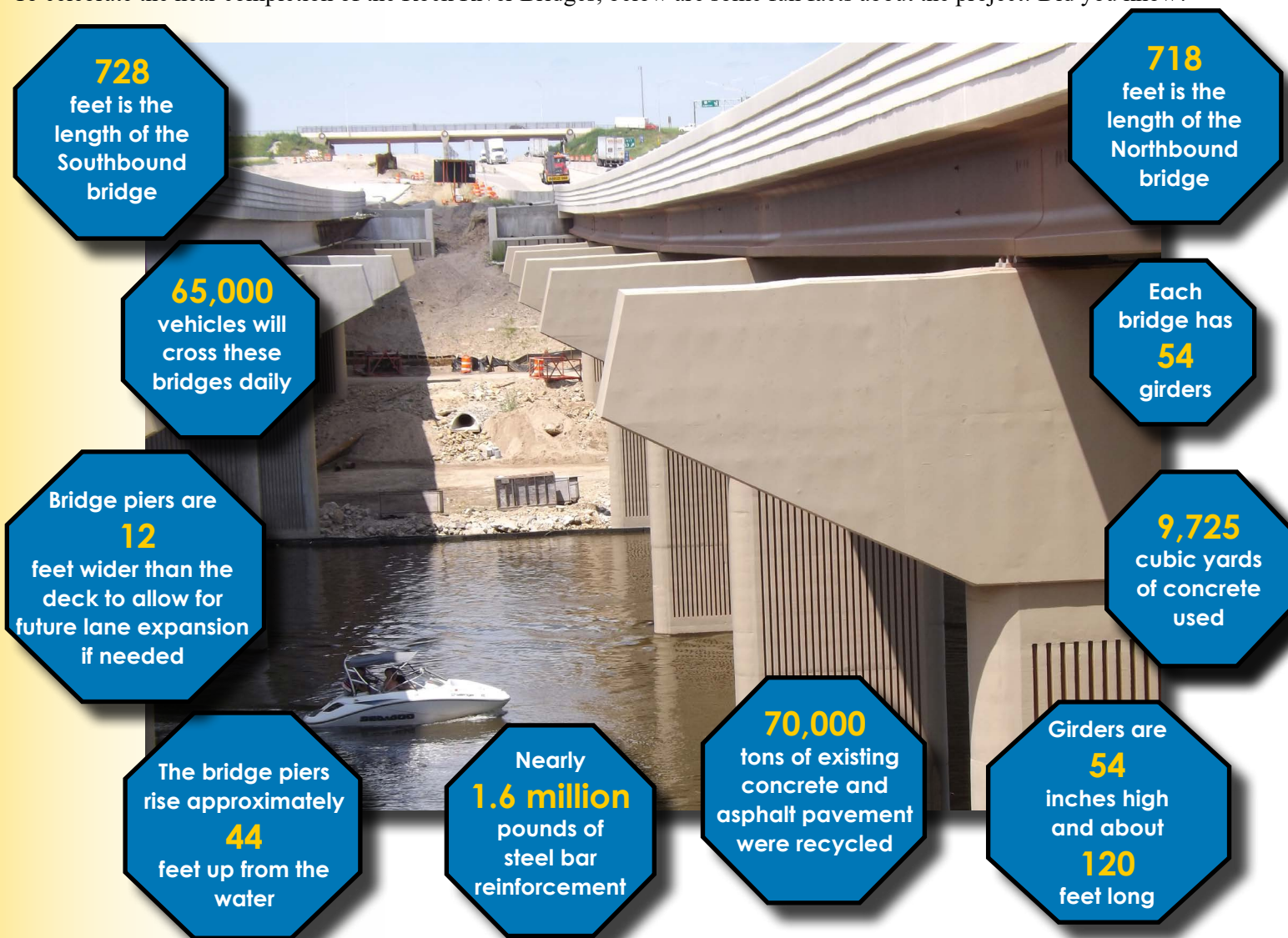
Sign up for email updates on the website.



Get real-time travel conditions by calling 511 or visiting [www.511wi.gov](http://www.511wi.gov).

## Fun Facts about the Rock River bridges

To celebrate the near completion of the Rock River Bridges, below are some fun facts about the project! Did you know?



## New park and ride lot opens in Janesville

A new park and ride lot recently opened along I-39/90 in Janesville. It is located off Midland Court near the WIS 11/Racine Street interchange (Exit 175).

Park and ride lots operate to encourage ridesharing, reduce congestion and promote energy conservation. The Janesville lot, with 78 parking stalls, will be used by commuters to share rides to common destinations in surrounding cities and counties. The lot is well-lit with gas stations, restaurants and lodging nearby.

For information on more than 100 park and ride lots across Wisconsin, visit the [Wisconsin DOT website](http://www.wisconsin.gov/dot).



*Aerial photo of the new park and ride lot in Janesville.*



Reconstruction work near Beloit will ramp up this fall as improvements get underway near the I-39/90 and I-43/WIS 81 interchange.

Part of the work this fall will include the construction of crossovers on I-39/90 near the Illinois state line, and between Colley Road and Cranston Road. In addition, spot repairs and patching will take place on the Interstate, and crews will improve the shoulders on I-43, east of I-39/90, in preparation for future reconstruction staging. Motorists can expect weeknight single lane closures on the Interstates.

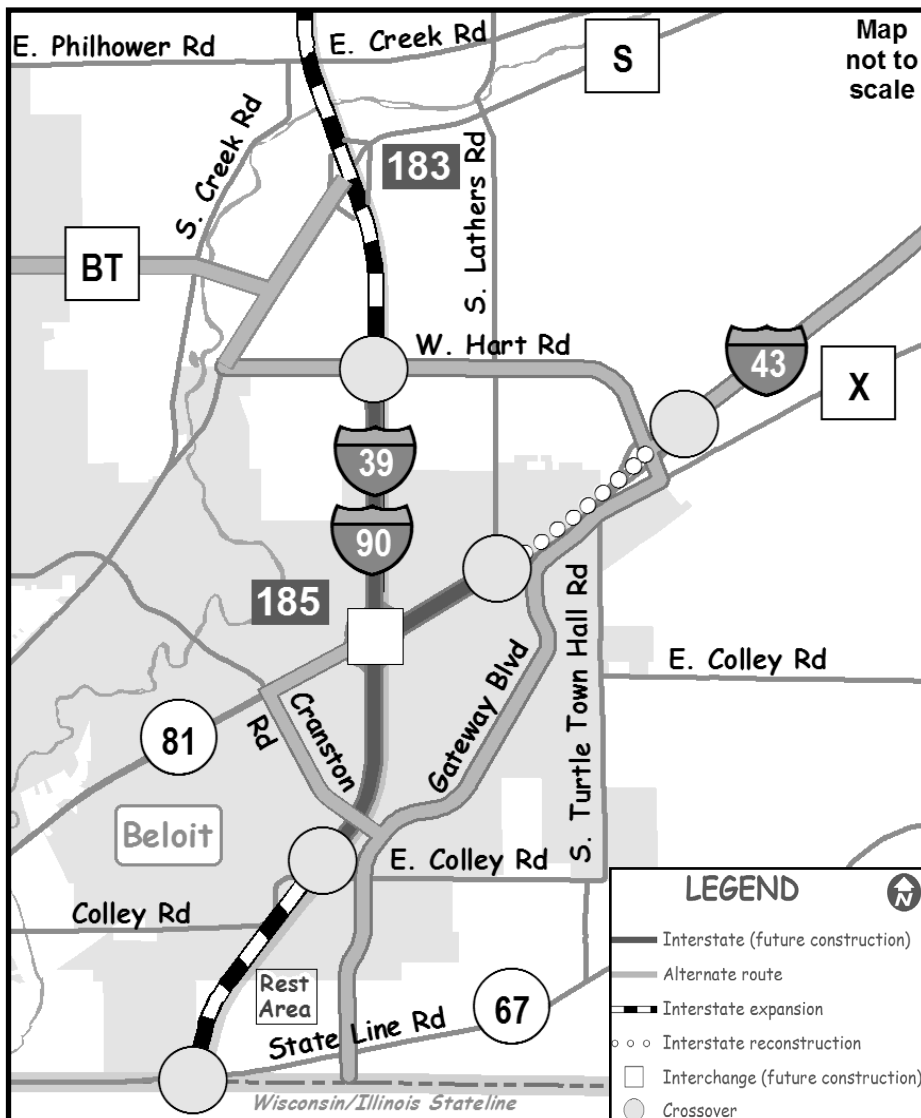
Starting in spring 2019, all I-39/90 traffic will shift to the southbound side between Cranston Road and the Illinois state line, and crews will begin reconstruction and expansion of the northbound lanes of the Interstate. Colley Road will be closed for the duration of the project as crews widen the bridges over the local roadway.

Crews will also begin reconstructing I-43 with traffic being reduced to one lane in each direction and eventually shifted onto the southbound side of I-43. They will then reconstruct the lanes on the opposite side, update the interchange ramps at County X/Hart Road, and modify the roundabouts' truck aprons.

In late summer or early fall 2019, all I-39/90 traffic will shift to the new northbound permanent pavement between the Illinois state line and Cranston Road as crews begin to reconstruct and expand the southbound side within these limits.

I-43 traffic will also be shifted to the newly completed Interstate lanes and crews will begin reconstruction of the southbound side.

Information on I-39/90 and I-43 construction for 2020-2021 will be shared in future newsletters and email updates. In the meantime, visit the [project website](#) to view exhibits of the area.



Map of planned construction activities in this area.

### Traffic Impacts for 2018 and 2019

- I-39/90: Two lanes remain open in each direction during daytime hours and weekends.
- I-43: One lane open in each direction during the late 2018 and the 2019 construction season.
- Periodic nighttime lane and ramp closures on both Interstates from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. weeknights.
- Access to the Beloit Rest Area and Wisconsin Welcome Center will remain open except for a two- to three-week closure likely taking place in fall 2018 (potentially spring 2019) to complete ramp connections to the future northbound lanes.

### PLAN AHEAD, STAY INFORMED!

Register for project email notifications, including weekly construction updates:  
[www.i39-90.wi.gov](http://www.i39-90.wi.gov)

Click on the "Sign Up for Updates" tab

## Interstate work zone speed limit reduced between Beloit and Madison

A speed limit reduction to 55 mph was implemented for the I-39/90 work zone from just south of the US 12/18 (Beltline) interchange near Madison to about three miles north of the Wisconsin-Illinois state line.

Two lanes of Interstate traffic are maintained in each direction during daytime hours and weekends. Motorists should obey the posted speed limit.

As a reminder, it is illegal to drive within a Wisconsin zone while talking on a hand-held mobile device. For everyone's safety, please keep your heads up and phones down!

## Work Zone Safety Reminder!

Road construction activities are taking place throughout the state and it's up to all of us to ensure that both the crews and the motorists driving past these work zones stay safe. Some important tips to remember when driving through a construction zone include:

- **Don't get distracted.** Eliminate eating, drinking, talking on the phone, or fiddling with electronic devices.
- **Expect the unexpected.** Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and vehicles may be working on or near the road.
- **Slow down.** A car traveling 60 mph travels 88 feet per second, and the faster you go the longer it takes to stop.
- **Give yourself room.** Rear-end collisions are the most common work zone crashes, so don't tailgate. Allow at least three seconds of braking distance.
- **Watch for signage.** Orange, diamond-shaped signs usually give you ample warning of lane closings, construction areas, and flaggers and other workers ahead.
- **Be patient.** If you don't see workers, that doesn't mean they're not there. Observe the signs until you see one that says you've left the work zone.
- **Plan ahead.** Leave early or map out an alternate route. Find the latest road conditions and work zone news at [511 Wisconsin](http://511.Wisconsin.gov).
- **Follow the law.** Slow down and move over, if possible, when you see flashing lights.



## Parker High School students tour I-39/90 Expansion Project

Twenty-seven students from Janesville Parker High School's technical education program got a firsthand look at how expansive, multi-year road reconstruction projects take place and learned about the large number and variety of trade workers needed to complete the work.

The field trip included a visit to the I-39/90 Project field office in Edgerton where students learned about the purpose of the expansion, the process involved in the design and construction phases as well as how a project of this size is managed. They also learned about construction safety, bridge demolition and reconstruction, excavation and road paving work.

In addition, the students were provided with information regarding WisDOT's Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TrANS) program. This program offers a free six-week course to those 18 and older who are interested in a career in the trades.

Several contractors working on the project shared information about the requirements they look for in prospective employees and how to apply to work in the trades.

The field trip also included stops at several locations along the I-39/90 corridor where they experienced what it's like to be on the other side of barrier walls -- in a work zone. While at the work zones, the students met with crew members working on the project who shared why they chose a career in the trades and their experience working on the I-39/90 project.

The event was a great opportunity for the students to develop a deep understanding of what's involved in road reconstruction and the trades needed to complete it.

A special thank you to project contractors Rock Road Companies and Lunda Construction Company, consultant staff from Harkinson Consulting, Strand Associates, Inc. and R.H. Batterman & Company, Inc. that helped make the field trip a success.

For more information about the TrANS program, please contact [Lorie Thompson](mailto:Lorie.Thompson@wisconsin.gov) for information that serves your region. You can also learn more by visiting [WisDOT's TrANS website](http://WisDOT's%20TrANS%20website).



*Parker High School tech education students visited several locations along the I-39/90 corridor to learn about the project and to learn about careers in the trades.*