



Winter 2019

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A look ahead to the 2019 construction season

2018 was a busy year for I-39/90 construction activities and 2019 promises to be even busier for Dane and Rock counties.



2019 Construction Guide



work is scheduled to begin in 2020.

Both Janesville and Beloit will have significant increases in construction activities beginning this spring.

In Janesville, crews continue Interstate expansion between Kennedy Road, north of the WIS 26 interchange (Exit 171A), to just south of the Rock River bridges near Edgerton.

There will also be Interstate reconstruction and expansion work from the US 14 interchange (Exit 171B) to the WIS 26 (Exit 171A) interchange in Janesville, which includes the need for ramp closures. In addition, crews will resume work to reconstruct and expand the southbound Interstate beginning at the

I-39/90 and US 14 interchange (Exit 171B) in Janesville to Hart Road near Beloit.

In Beloit, crews will reconstruct and expand I-39/90 between the Illinois state line and Cranston Road. Work will also continue on the I-43 eastbound and westbound lanes between the County X/Hart Road interchange and the I-39/90 and I-43 interchange.

To help the traveling public navigate the I-39/90 work zones, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation creates an annual Construction Guide that highlights that year's construction activities. The 2019 Construction Guide will be available in early spring. Be sure you pick up a free copy at one of the following locations:

- Rest areas
- Area libraries
- Local government offices
- Project field office in Edgerton
- Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) locations
- Chambers of commerce and visitors center

In addition to identifying where construction activities are taking place, the Construction Guide also highlights alternate routes used to facilitate incident management during and after the expansion project and provide motorists another travel option.

**Pick up your
copy this
spring!**

Noise barrier walls along I-39/90 in Janesville receive warm welcome from neighbors

Starting in late spring 2018, crews began the process of installing noise barrier walls along the northbound side of I-39/90 between the US 14 and WIS 11 (Racine Street) interchanges in Janesville. The wall along the northbound side of the Interstate was completed this past fall.

The noise barriers are made of concrete and composite material and are designed to absorb sound, reducing the amount of Interstate traffic noise in the adjacent residential areas. The height of the completed sections of the barrier walls range from eight feet to 15 feet, and vary depending upon the topography of the landscape and benefited receptor/listener or common use area.

Noise barrier walls are installed in areas where there is a determination made that it will be a feasible and reasonable mitigation measure for an impacted receptor (residence) or common use area. Traffic noise modeling completed for the I-39/90 project has indicated traffic noise impacts will occur in this area. Mitigation of these impacts has been determined reasonable and feasible, and the majority of impacted landowners have voted in favor of the noise barrier wall construction.

Feedback from residents abutting the newly installed noise barriers has been positive. Several residents have explained to a television reporter that the wall has significantly reduced traffic noise levels.

In summer 2019, crews will begin constructing noise walls along I-39/90 southbound between the US 14 and WIS 11/Racine Street interchanges. Noise barrier walls will be also be installed in 2021 on the southbound side of I-39/90 near Kennedy Road.



Construction of the northbound side noise barrier walls in Janesville began in June 2018 and wrapped up in late October 2018.



When will portions of the newly expanded Interstate be open for traffic?



I-39/90 traffic travel on the newly completed southbound lanes near Edgerton. Weather permitting, the third lane in each direction will open to traffic in late 2019.

Anyone traveling I-39/90 between Madison and Beloit has noticed the construction as well as expanded concrete pavement in some areas. While the pavement accommodates three lanes in one direction, only two lanes are currently being used.

After analysis and review, I-39/90 will remain two lanes in each direction until substantial sections of the new Interstate are complete.

The good news is that by fall 2019, much of the I-39/90 expansion between Edgerton and Madison will be complete. WisDOT anticipates opening this area to three lanes of traffic in both directions in late 2019, weather permitting.

There will still be plenty of Interstate reconstruction taking place from Beloit to Janesville, as well as the I-39/90 and US 12/18 (Beltline) interchange near Madison.

It's important that whether you're in a construction zone or not, please stay alert, eliminate distractions, drive with caution and plan ahead to arrive at your destination safely.



“I am doing things that most women wouldn’t believe they could do,” says Heather, a recent graduate of the Transportation Alliance for New Solutions or TrANS program.

Heather joined Wisconsin Works to get back into the workforce, but she never expected her case manager to recommend construction as an option. When she looked at her two small children; however, Heather realized that she could achieve anything for them. That was all it took to get Heather on the road to the career she always wanted.

Heather quickly learned that a good paying job was just one benefit of working in construction. “I liked pushing myself to learn the things that I didn’t know and surprised myself with how well I was doing,” explains Heather. Her instructor Lorie encouraged her to learn different skills and career paths in construction. “She had confidence in me, and as I learned the material, passed the trainings, and completed the program, I realized I could do everything that Lorie said I could.”

On Lorie’s advice, Heather signed up to earn her Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). “Before I even started at

the driving school, I had a contractor interested in hiring me,” she says. The day she graduated, they asked her up to their corporate office to offer her a better position with more hours.

“I had my second daughter in October – soon after I had joined TrANS. Now I’m on my way to giving one of the best futures to my beauties! They deserve it!! I’m so happy to be a mom, excited, and so pumped now for learning new ways to be creative in the field I desire – never would have thought it.”

“I am doing things that most women wouldn’t believe they could do.”

“This job means that I will be able to provide for my kids, to be a responsible parent. It has made me feel better about myself, more secure in what I do and what I can do in the future. This is the job that I have

always wanted. I love it,” she said.

Heather is currently doing roadwork with Payne & Dolan. When asked what advice she’d give others, she says, “Listen to others who are trying to help, because sometimes they see your abilities better than you see them in yourself.”

For more information about the TrANS program, please visit the program [website](#).

Three areas of greatest apprenticeship opportunity for the I-39/90 project

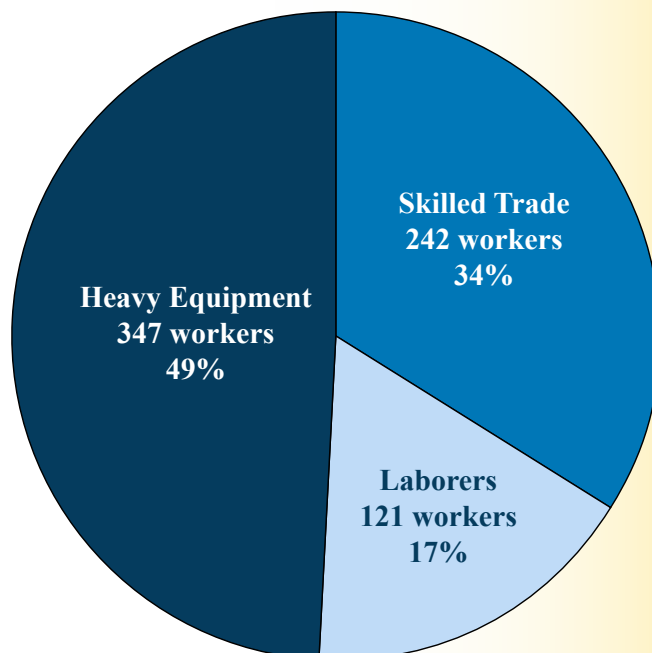
The I-39/90 Expansion project has created significant opportunities for individuals seeking fulfilling jobs that pay well. Since 2014, a total of 710 apprentices have been hired by contractors working on the Interstate project and there is a need for more.

Apprenticeship work may include a variety of opportunities including heavy equipment operators, skilled trades and laborers. Essentially, an apprenticeship is post-secondary education like a college or university. However, apprentices learn only a portion of their skills in a traditional classroom.

They receive most of their training on-the-job, while working for an employer who pays a good wage. The employment is the primary requirement for an apprenticeship – a job must exist in order for the apprentice to be trained. The classroom instruction is usually provided through the Wisconsin Technical College system.

If you’re interested in learning more, please visit the [Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development website](#). While there, you can explore a variety of apprenticeship opportunities and learn how to enroll into a program.

Apprenticeship by Trade for the I-39/90 Project



710 total apprentices from 2014 to 2018
(As of September 30, 2018)