



Spring 2020

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### Polymer overlay applied to help protect the bridges

To better protect the new I-39/90 bridges from Wisconsin's harsh winter weather, and the effects of salt used to melt snow and ice, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is applying a polymer overlay to all new bridge decks on this project.

A polymer overlay is a type of treatment that enhances durability of a bridge deck by waterproofing and increasing traction on the driving surface. The treatment also helps to resist incidental damages from winter maintenance, which optimizes pavement life.

Once a new bridge is constructed and the deck is poured, crews must wait a minimum of 28 days for the concrete to fully cure prior to applying the overlay. However, it is beneficial to allow bridges to go through a freeze and thaw cycle prior to applying the overlay. The initial minor cracking, which occurs naturally during a freezing and thaw cycle, will then be filled by the overlay.

The polymer is applied in a multi-step process:

1. The deck is power-washed to remove dirt and debris that may prohibit the polymer from adhering.
2. A layer of polymer is then sprayed onto the deck and sprinkled with an aggregate that adheres to the wet polymer.
3. Crews wait for the polymer to cure, which takes on average four hours depending upon air temperature, and then repeat steps two and three for a total of two layers.
4. When complete, the overlay adds about a quarter inch of height to the deck and has little to no impact to the overall ride.

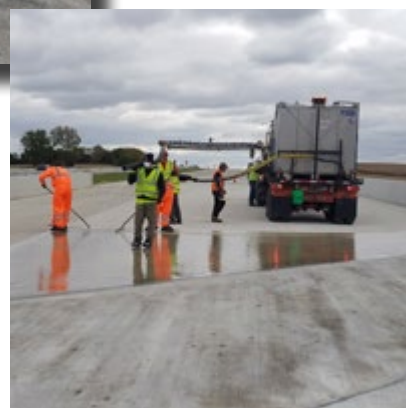
The polymer overlay is typically applied between the months of May and October as the air temperature must be above 50 degrees to allow for proper drying of the polymer. For low-traffic bridges that have a convenient alternate route, crews typically close the entire bridge for a few days to apply the overlay. When it's not feasible to completely close a bridge, crews will close one side of the bridge to perform the work, allowing traffic to use the other side. When completed, crews open the finished side to traffic and close the unfinished side to apply the overlay and complete the project.

Drivers on I-39/90 should be alert for daytime lane restrictions and shifts at bridge locations between Beloit and Madison. Please drive with caution as crews and equipment will be working near the travel lanes.



*Last year, crews applied polymer overlays to some bridges between Madison and Edgerton.*

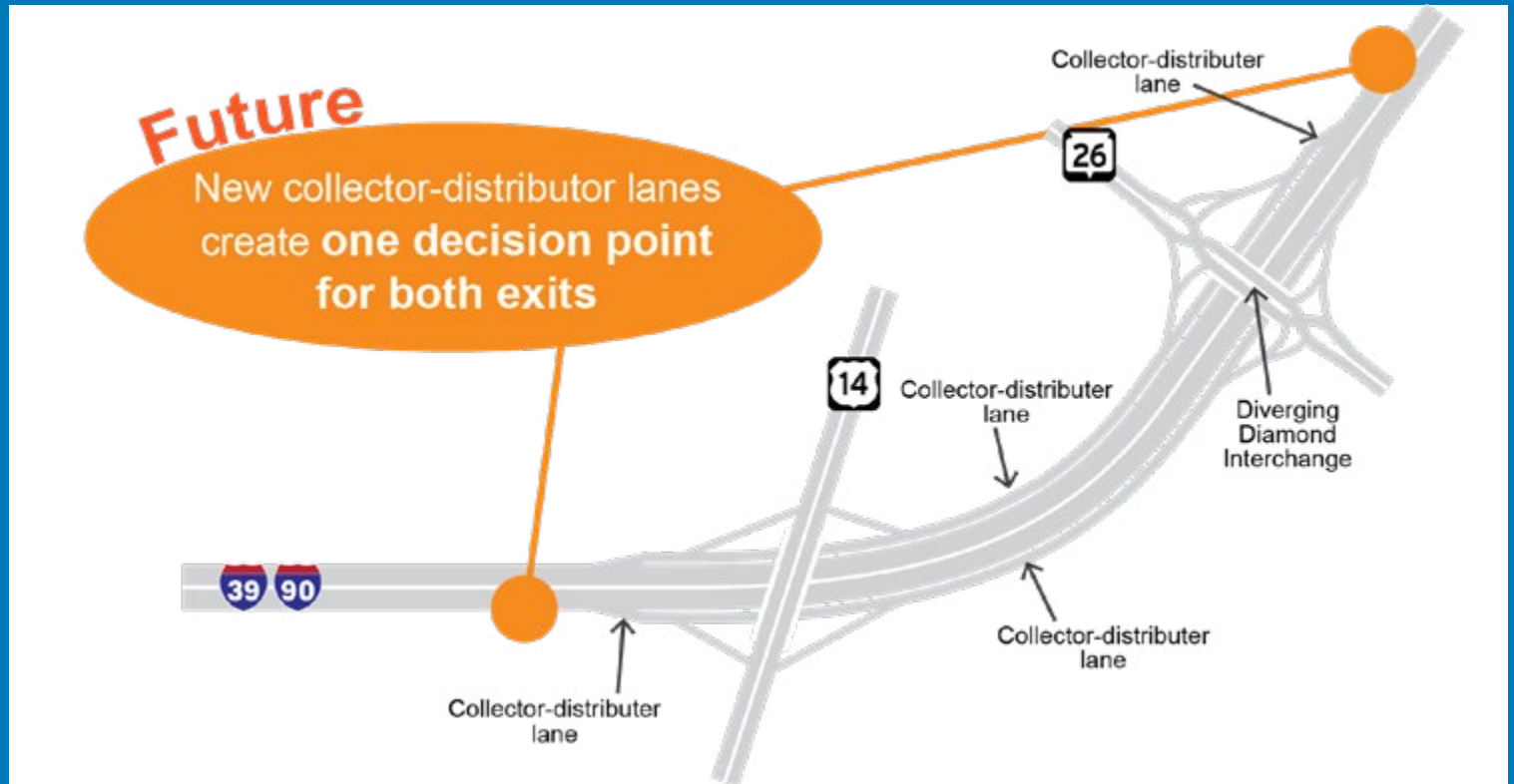
*Watch for lane shifts and daytime lane restrictions as these operations continue this year and in 2021.*



## Janesville Collector-Distributor lanes: new approach, same destination

Interstate 39/90 expansion in and near Janesville has resumed with northbound expansion work taking place between the Rock River bridges near Edgerton and the US 14/Humes Road interchange (Exit 171B) in Janesville.

Most of the new Interstate will be three lanes in each direction. An eight-mile section of the Interstate, between WIS 11 (Avalon Road) and WIS 26 (Milton Avenue) in Janesville, will be expanded to four lanes in each direction to accommodate through traffic combined with local motorists using I-39/90 to get around the city.



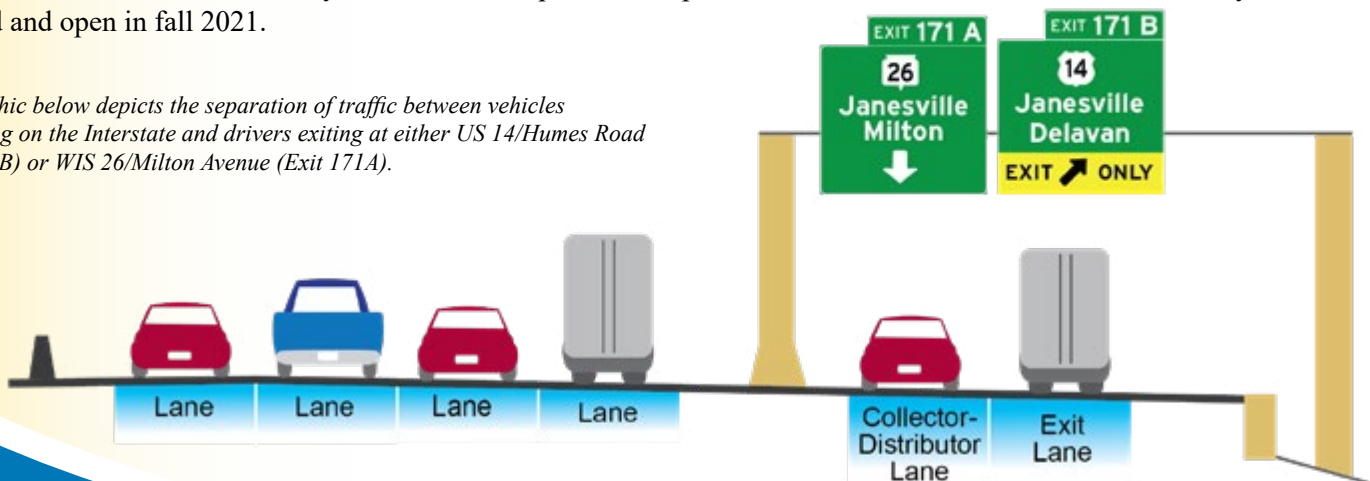
*Aerial view of the C/D lane system shows the decision point for those traveling on the Interstate and intending to exit at either interchange.*

To improve traffic flow and safety when entering and exiting the Interstate within this eight-mile section, Collector-Distributor (C/D) lanes will be constructed in both the northbound and southbound lanes between the WIS 26 and US 14 interchanges.

The C/D lane system functions by separating the entering and exiting ramp traffic from the higher-speed Interstate traffic on the through lanes of I-39/90. This type of lane system is designed to improve motorists' safety and mobility through the area. It also creates one decision point to access both the WIS 26/Milton Avenue (Exit 171A) and US 14/Humes Road (Exit 171B) interchanges. A nearby example of this configuration is the I-39/90/94 and US 151/High Crossing Blvd. interchange in Madison.

The I-39/90 northbound C/D lane system will be completed and open this fall. The Interstate's southbound C/D system will be finished and open in fall 2021.

*The graphic below depicts the separation of traffic between vehicles continuing on the Interstate and drivers exiting at either US 14/Humes Road (Exit 171B) or WIS 26/Milton Avenue (Exit 171A).*



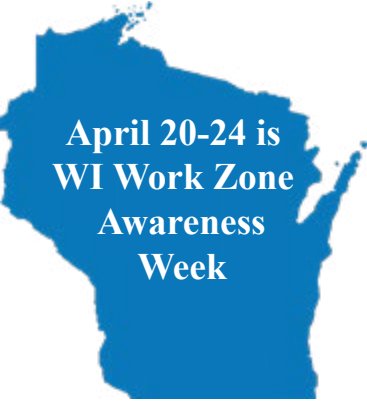


## Work Zone Awareness Week is a reminder on how to drive year-round

Crews that repair or reconstruct Wisconsin's roadways are just like everyone else; they want to return home safely at the end of each workday. While their safety depends on the actual work they perform, it is especially reliant on the motorists traveling near the work zone. Wisconsin's Work Zone Awareness Week is April 20-24, 2020.

To help crews and all motorists stay safe, here are some important tips when driving through a construction zone:

- **Follow the law.** Slow down and move over, if possible, when you see flashing lights or vehicles parked on the side of the road.
- **Give yourself room.** Rear-end collisions are the most common work zone crashes, so don't tailgate and leave room to brake.
- **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.
- **Don't get distracted.** Eliminate eating, drinking, and other distractions while driving.
- **Slow down.** Follow posted speed limits at all times.
- **Texting while driving is illegal.** It is also illegal to drive within a Wisconsin work zone while talking on a hand-held device.
- **Plan ahead.** Leave early or map out an alternate route. Find the latest road conditions and work zone news at 511 Wisconsin, [www.511wi.gov](http://www.511wi.gov).



April 20-24 is  
WI Work Zone  
Awareness  
Week

Following these simple tips will help ensure that you and the work crews will remain safe and will return home to their loved ones.

## 2020 Construction Guide now available!

The 2020 construction season has started, and motorists will experience work activities on I-39/90 near Madison, Janesville and Beloit.

To help motorists traveling this region, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's new 2020 Construction Guide is now available. The guide can be viewed on the I-39/90 Project website at [www.i39-90.wi.gov](http://www.i39-90.wi.gov).

The guide identifies the locations of projects taking place this year, providing the information motorists need prior to heading out.

If you go to the website to view the guide, please be sure to also click on the "Sign Up for Updates" tab. That way, each week, you'll receive an email update of construction activities taking place.



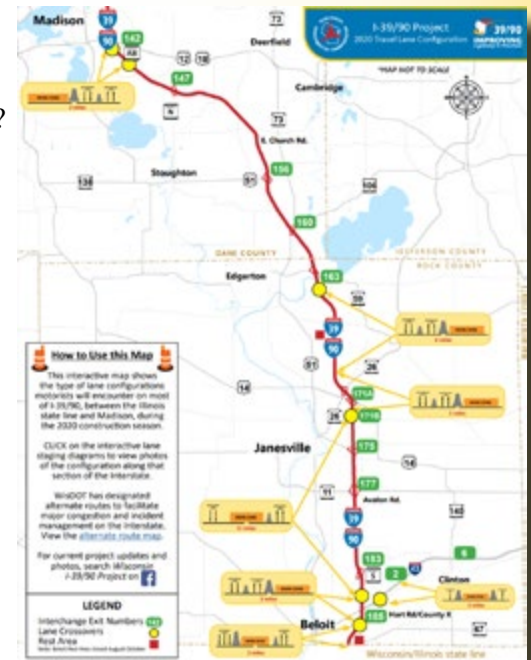
## Interactive Motorist Map provides insight on what to expect

Do you ever wish you could see, in advance, what you're going to encounter when traveling through a work zone? Will traffic be all on one side of the road or the other? How many lanes are open? What does that actual section of highway look like?

The interactive motorist map provides all those answers in one, easy to read graphic for the I-39/90 Expansion Project. The map provides a graphic representation of the type of traffic configuration motorists will encounter throughout the 45-mile project corridor between Beloit and Madison.

It also highlights where crossovers are located, the type of lane configuration in that section of I-39/90 and provides a link to a current photo of that location of the Interstate.

The motorist map can be found on the project website under the "Maps" tab at [projects.511wi.gov/i-39-90/map](http://projects.511wi.gov/i-39-90/map). Note, the map is updated regularly as construction activities progress through spring, summer and fall.





**Wisconsin Department  
of Transportation**  
I-39/90 Project  
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## I-39/90 Expansion Project Newsletter

SPRING 2020

### We're moving to digital newsletters only

To keep you informed on the I-39/90 Project, we create and distribute a newsletter four times a year about completed, current and upcoming construction activities between Beloit and Madison.

Currently, the winter and summer issues are digital only and can be viewed on the project website, [www.i39-90.wi.gov](http://www.i39-90.wi.gov). The spring and fall newsletters are available as print and digital newsletters, such as this edition.

In order to reduce paper usage and save costs, while continuing to provide important project information, the spring and fall newsletter issues will be digital only starting this fall.

For convenience, when a new newsletter is available, an email is sent to those registered to receive project updates. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to visit the project website and click on the "Sign Up for Updates" tab and enter your name and email address. The emails also provide I-39/90 progress updates in Dane and Rock counties, including weekly notifications during the construction season.

**Future  
newsletters  
online only!**

### 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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