

# NEWS ALERT

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

*Northeast Region – Green Bay office*

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## **WisDOT reassures public: Leo Frigo Memorial Bridge (I-43) in Green Bay remains fully open and safe**

*Viral photos show routine maintenance issues identified years ago – not structural damage*

GREEN BAY, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Northeast Region today addressed recent public concerns and social media posts featuring photos of the Leo Frigo Memorial Bridge over the Fox River, clarifying that the bridge is safe, structurally sound, and open to traffic with no restrictions.

WisDOT officials emphasized that all bridges in Wisconsin, including the Leo Frigo Memorial Bridge, undergo regular inspections and maintenance under strict federal and state safety standards. The bridge continues to serve thousands of drivers daily without issue.

Recent photos circulating online have caused unnecessary alarm by appearing to show serious deterioration. WisDOT wants to set the record straight:

- One widely shared photo does not depict an expansion joint. It shows a standard structural framing connection area that is in good condition.
- The second photo captures a failing concrete patch at an expansion joint. The visible cracking and spalling is localized patch deterioration — common at joints exposed to Wisconsin's harsh weather, water infiltration, and deicing salts. This is not a failure of the bridge's structural components and does not impact the structural capacity of the bridge.

Importantly, this type of wear was already identified and documented in the 2023 bridge inspection report. It is routinely tracked during inspections and represents anticipated maintenance for a bridge of this age and environment — not an emergency or hidden defect.

A comprehensive rehabilitation project to repair the bridge deck and joints is already scheduled for 2030, which will permanently address these conditions.

*“Public vigilance helps us keep our infrastructure strong, and we appreciate everyone who reports what they see,” said a Jason Lahm, Bridge Supervisor. “However, these photos have been misinterpreted. The Leo Frigo Memorial Bridge is safe for travel today and will remain so. We encourage drivers to use the bridge with full confidence.”*

#### Key Facts:

- The bridge is fully open with no load restrictions or safety concerns.
- Routine inspections caught and continue to monitor the minor joint patch issues.
- A planned 2030 rehab project will fully restore the deck and expansion joints.
- No immediate repairs are needed, as the observed conditions do not affect the bridge’s integrity.

WisDOT remains committed to transparency and proactive maintenance across Wisconsin’s transportation system. Travelers noticing anything unusual on any bridge are always encouraged to report it.

#### **For more information:**

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