

NEWS

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Northeast Region – Green Bay office

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WisDOT Launches New Lift Bridge Information Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has developed several new resources to help travelers – by road or water – better understand any travel limitations during routine maintenance and inspections on the state's 12 lift bridges.

Motorists and mariners are encouraged to review:

- Weekly updates with state lift bridge maintenance locations:
 - <https://projects.511wi.gov/maintain-ne/schedule/>
- A new webpage explaining state lift bridge operations, with an option to sign up for alerts:
 - <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrces/strct/lift-bridges.aspx>
- A companion webpage that provides broader information on bridge inspections:
 - <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/safety-eng/brdg.aspx>

Bascule lift bridges, often called drawbridges, are critical movable structures that allow marine traffic to pass while supporting highway, pedestrian and freight movement. Wisconsin maintains 12 such bridges. All but one of the lift bridges are in WisDOT's Northeast Region, including multiple spans in Oshkosh, Sturgeon Bay and Green Bay. One carries traffic over US 10 in Prescott in WisDOT's Northwest Region.

Lift bridges are some of the most technologically advanced structures created across water. They play a vital role in supporting commercial shipping, recreation and freight on the Great Lakes and Wisconsin waterways while maintaining connectivity for vehicles, pedestrians and overland freight.

"These new resources reflect WisDOT's commitment to transparency and safety," said Jason Lahm, WisDOT Bureau of Structures Supervisor. "By providing detailed information

about our lift bridges and maintenance schedules in one convenient location, we help both motorists and mariners plan their trips and better understand the critical work needed to keep these vital structures operating reliably for decades to come.”

During routine maintenance operations, motorists should expect either full-bridge or single-lane closures. Additionally, larger maritime traffic should plan accordingly for bridges to be impacted, and passage may take longer during maintenance and inspection periods.

In addition to the resources provided by WisDOT, mariners are encouraged to confer with the US Coast Guard’s Great Lakes District Local Notice to Mariners for information about lift bridge closures in Wisconsin.

- <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Featured-Content/Mariners/Local-Notice-to-Mariners-LNMs/Great-Lakes-District/>

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[Info online at: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnsit-rsrcs/strct/lift-bridges.aspx>]