# Mississippi River Bridge at Lansing – May 11, 2026, Update

On the land, on the water, and above the waves, things are happening in a very noticeable way at the site of the new Mississippi River Bridge at Lansing.

## Car Ferry Service

We'll start on the water.  Through wind, rain, snow, and freezing temperatures, the Pride of Cassville provided car ferry service between Lansing and Wisconsin as we continued building the new bridge.

On April 3rd the ferry set off to return home to Cassville, where it is now running its regular seasonal service between Cassville, WI and Iowa. We thank them for transporting thousands safely and efficiently across the river.

As the Pride of Cassville returns to its home port, we welcome the Newt Marine ferry!  Newt Marine will continue operating the same ferry schedule so travelers can count on consistent and reliable river crossings.

We wish the Pride of Cassville a safe and successful summer season and look forward to continued safe and efficient service with Newt Marine as we work toward completing and opening the new bridge.

Also, if you plan on using the ferry this summer, we ask that you follow the instructions on the signs and from the deckhands.  The number of vehicles using the ferry is steadily increasing as we move into the warmer months so waits could be a bit longer.  Also, marina traffic is picking up on the Iowa side so be aware of marina and Tiki Bar traffic as you board or get off the ferry.

Don't forget, you can get all kinds of information about the ferry, as well as live cameras looking at the landings on both the Iowa and Wisconsin side of the river.  Here is a link to that website if you want to take a look:

https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/roads-highways/major-construction-projects/mississippi-river-bridge-lansing/car-ferry

## Highway Reconstruction

Now to the work taking place on the land. The contractor has started work on Iowa 9/Iowa 26 north and south of the bridge. This part of the project involves reconstructing the highway to widen the area around the bridge. This will make it easier for semis and drivers pulling trailers to make the turn on and off the bridge compared to the tight turning area of the old bridge. Crews are building the roadway one half at a time. This allows us to keep traffic flowing through the work zone with the use of temporary traffic signals.

Underground work is also happening during this part of the project. The contractor is installing new storm sewer to make sure water will drain quickly off the highway during snow melts and when it is raining.

Staying on land, the contractor is also installing a wall along the highway. This wall, called an MSE wall, not only looks nice, but it also serves a pretty important purpose. The wall holds the roadbed in place. It's more or less a large landscaping wall that supports the area and allows us to build the road in this location.


### Pier Removal

Now to work happening in the water. After the implosion of the old bridge Kraemer still needed to remove the concrete piers. The most challenging removals are happening at pier two in the water and at pier one right on the riverbank on the Iowa side.

We'll start with pier two. Kraemer used an excavator on a barge with a large jackhammer attached to the end of the boom. They knocked the pier down to river level piece by piece. When the pier


was knocked down as far as they could go, explosives were used to demolish the rest of the pier below the water. Kraemer then used a long reach excavator to remove the debris from the riverbed.

Over to pier one on the Iowa riverbank. Because the pier stood so close to the highway, railroad tracks and several houses, Kraemer is using a different approach to remove this large concrete structure. The workers are cutting the pier into large blocks. And you won't believe what they use to cut the concrete! A rope!!! It's actually a diamond crusted steel cable called a rope. Add in a motor, pulleys and water to cool the rope and Kraemer can precisely cut the large pieces off pier 1. Those blocks are then picked up by a crane and loaded on to a barge. They are then crushed and hauled away to be used for future projects.

## Bridge Construction

Now to the star of the show…. the new bridge that is really taking shape above the waves! Kraemer has been working on what looks like a giant erector set! Each piece of steel is set one by one by the iron workers. Work started on the Iowa side. Each steel beam was made at a plant in Gary, Indiana and hauled to the project site in Wisconsin. It has taken close to 300 semi loads to get the steel to the site. It was then loaded onto barges, in the correct order, so it can be put together. Crews have built out the Iowa approximately 220 feet before they had to stop. Then work shifted to the

Wisconsin side. The same process has led to the bridge stretching about 330 feet over the river. Crews will stop setting steel at the bridge when the gap between the two sides is 220 feet. The remaining gap will be exciting to see "bridged". Workers are building the center section of the bridge on barges just north of the new bridge outside the Lansing Marina. When that is completed, the barges will be floated into place beneath the empty space in the bridge. Kraemer will use special jacks called strand jacks to then lift the center section of the bridge into place. Crews will then put in some of the final 150,000 bolts needed to put the bridge together. That process is scheduled to take place sometime in June.

When the steel is all set Kraemer will start working on getting the new bridge deck ready for concrete. That work will include setting plywood decking and stainless-steel rebar.

As the deck is getting ready for concrete, work will move forward on the highway reconstruction on the Iowa side. Everything is progressing to get the bridge open to traffic by the Spring of 2027!

As always, you can get the latest updates and follow the progress of the project at our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/LansingBridge. You do not have to be a Facebook member to check out the site. And you can get a look at what's happening by viewing the live webcam at the project website at https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/roads-highways/major-construction-projects/mississippi-river-bridge-lansing