

We are less than a year away from opening the new Mississippi River Bridge at Lansing, and it's starting to look like it!

The Connection is Complete!



The Big Lift!

On Friday, June 12th, a crowd spent most of the sunny day relaxing on the bank of the Mississippi River in Lansing to watch Kraemer lift the center section of the new bridge into place, officially bridging the gap between Iowa and Wisconsin. Over several weeks the iron workers put together the final section on barges north of the bridge just outside the Lansing Marina. On the big day tugboats moved the barges with the structure to the bridge, then meticulously positioned it into

place. Crews then attached steel cables to each corner of the section. That's when the strand jacks positioned on the bridge went to work. Very slowly, the jacks lifted the final section of the bridge into place. It took almost all day, but at the end of the day the center section of the bridge was in place safely and successfully!

The work was far from done though! Thousands of bolts still needed to be put in place and tightened, and several more pieces of steel needed to be set.



Almost There!

A Milestone Achieved, A Tradition Continued



Topping Off

On Wednesday, July 1st, something historic happened. The iron workers placed one of the last pieces of steel on the bridge, a process called “topping out”.

“Topping out” also comes with a pretty cool tradition. On the top of the last piece of steel the crews placed a United States flag, and a fir tree! Placing the tree is a tradition that dates back thousands of years. It’s an ancient Norse tradition that

is supposed to appease “displaced tree spirits” and help bring good fortune and safe completion to the project.

This milestone also meant the end of the project for the iron workers. For several months they worked 10-hour days, 7 days a week. We thank them for their skill and dedication to safely and successfully complete their part of this massive project.

Getting Ready for Concrete

Now that the framework of the bridge is in place, crews have been getting the structure ready for the concrete deck.

Kraemer’s crews are nearly done decking the floor of the bridge. That means placing plywood the entire length and width of the new bridge. Once the plywood is in place it’s time for the stainless-steel rebar. A lot of it! There will be more than 75 miles of stainless-steel rebar in the new bridge deck. These pieces of steel add strength to the concrete when it is poured, giving us a long lasting, high quality and cost-effective bridge deck.

We’re hoping to start the first of three deck pours in late July/early August with pour number 1 taking place on the Iowa side of the river. The next pour will happen on the Wisconsin side and will leave a gap



Decking and Rebar

in the middle. Kraemer will finish the pour using ready-mix trucks on both sides of the bridge to fill in what's left. The entire bridge deck will need over 150 ready-mix trucks!

Iowa Road Work

The project includes more than building a bridge! Crews are reconstructing Iowa 26 in Lansing on both the north and south sides of the bridge. If you ever used the old bridge, especially while pulling a boat or driving a semi, you know it was a tight turn getting on and off the bridge. This project widens the intersection to make that turn safer and easier to make.

It's not just new concrete for the highway, the project includes new storm sewer and other utility work under the roadway, as well as new sidewalk.



Iowa 9 & Iowa 26 Reconstruction

The contractor is doing one half of the roadway at a time to keep the road open to traffic with temporary traffic signals. They started on the northbound lane and are nearly done! We are hoping to move traffic to the new northbound lane in mid-August and start the reconstruction process in the southbound lane.

We are still on track to get the bridge open to traffic in 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>