

## Smith Ave. High Bridge Construction Update

### Project Overview

MnDOT is currently reconstructing the bridge deck of the Smith Avenue High Bridge, which includes improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and accommodations. The project will extend the lifespan of the High Bridge and provide a smoother road surface. Work on the bridge will require its closure and the use of detours through December 2018. Occasional lane and/or intersection closures also are likely to occur during specific construction activities. Please continue to visit the project website for closure notices: [mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy149highbridge/](http://mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy149highbridge/)

During construction, there will be no access to the High Bridge Dog Park on Randolph Avenue; however, the park is accessible from the east by exiting on Washington Street from Shepard Road and parking along Spring Street.

### Work to Date

Crews have made significant progress on the bridge deck reconstruction since fall 2017, when work began despite unusually cold winter temperatures and continued snow events in the spring. Construction crews have kept the project on schedule. Two of the primary activities to date have included replacement of the post-tensioning tendons and removing the bridge deck. The removal has been a significant operation, with many pieces of heavy equipment taking out large chunks of material from elevations high above the Mississippi River. Most of loud noise associated with project is over; however, there will be a three- to four-week period where noise will again be louder.



### Upcoming Work

The pouring of the new bridge deck has started and will continue through fall 2018. The new ornamental railings will be installed once decking is completed. There will be a brief three- to four-week period in June 2018 where jackhammers will be used to remove a few remaining deck sections. High levels of construction noise can be expected during this time. The bridge is scheduled to reopen to traffic in December 2018, weather permitting.

### Construction viewing

MnDOT encourages those interested in watching construction activities take place near the site to use the scenic overlook on the south side of the bridge. The view from this location is outstanding and far safer than using Randolph or St. Clair Avenues. Measures have been taken to prevent trespassing within the project site itself. There are locked security fences, cameras and large concrete barriers to prevent trespassing.



### Project Website:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy149highbridge/>

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