

## Update on Smith Ave. High Bridge & Hwy 149 Construction

As you know, work on Smith Ave., Dodd Rd. and the High Bridge is in full swing. Summer is flying by and work remains on schedule. However, with all the work currently going on between St. Paul and Mendota Heights, we want to share a more widespread update on where things are at and what still needs to be completed. Take a look!

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### High Bridge deck reconstruction

Crews are currently reconstructing the deck of the Smith Ave. High Bridge, which includes improving pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The project will extend the lifespan of the High Bridge and provide a smoother road surface. Work on the bridge will require its continued closure and the use of detours through December 2018. Occasional lane and/or road closures will 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 from Randolph Ave.; however, the park is accessible from the east by exiting on Washington St. from Shepard Rd. and parking along Spring St.



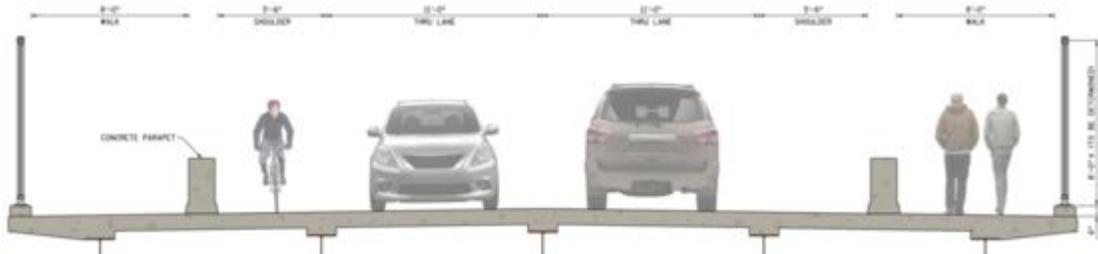
### Completed work

Crews have continued to make significant progress on the project since work started in March 2018 and have kept the project on schedule. Two of the primary activities this spring and early-summer have included removing the final pieces of the bridge deck and pouring the new concrete bridge deck and sidewalks.

*Photo by: David Gonzalez*

## Upcoming work

The pouring of the new bridge deck will continue through the fall 2018. Ornamental railings will be installed once the decking work is complete, followed by construction of the pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The bridge is scheduled to reopen to traffic in December 2018.

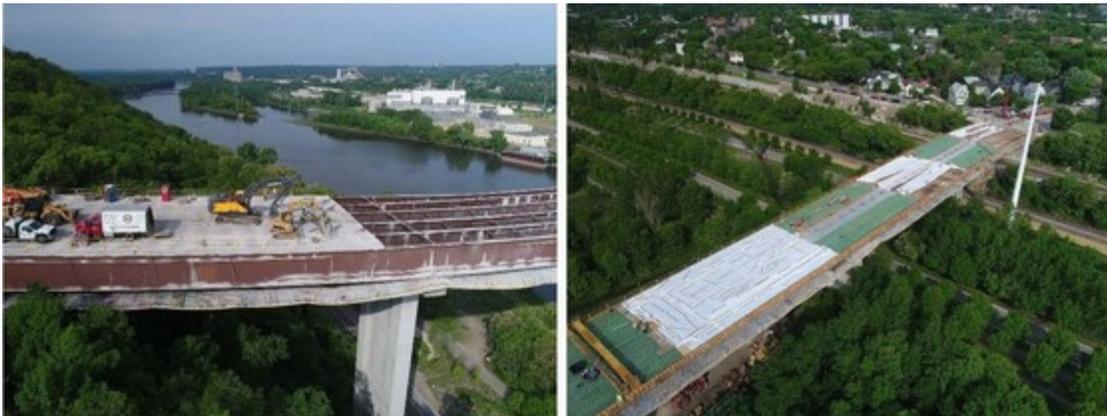


The new Smith Ave. High Bridge deck will feature 8-foot sidewalks on each side of the bridge, both of which will be separated from bicycle and automobile traffic by a concrete barrier. This graphic provides a look at how space on the new bridge deck will be used from a multimodal perspective.

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## High Bridge construction viewing

If you are interested in watching construction activities taking place near the site, we invite you 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. If viewing the construction activity is of interest, you might want to stop by the south side overlook sometime between July 23 and Aug. 10, as crews will be pouring the south end of the bridge deck.



Photos by: David Gonzalez

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## Hwy 149 resurfacing project

The resurfacing project on Hwy 149/Smith Ave./Dodd Rd. began June 11, 2018. The project will extend the lifespan of Hwy 149, provide a smoother road surface, improve drainage and pedestrian

accessibility, and replace traffic signals at various intersections. An additional left-turn lane from westbound I-494 to southbound Dodd Rd./Hwy 149 also will be included.

To date, crews have completed the installation of stormwater infrastructure. Continued stormwater improvements will be made throughout the project, including the installation of curb, gutter and stormsewer. Resurfacing of the roadway and sidewalk improvements also will be occurring. Several more road and intersection closures can be expected throughout the course of the project. Detours are posted on the project website.

Crews recently completed Stage 1 of the project, which included street resurfacing and stormwater infrastructure improvements on Hwy 149 between Hwy 110 and Wentworth Ave. The remaining schedule is as follows:

- **Stage 2 (July – Late September):** Dodd Rd./Smith Ave. intersection to George St.
- **Stage 3 (October):** Annapolis St. from Smith Ave. to Cherokee Heights Blvd.
- **Stage 4 (October-November):** Wentworth Ave. to Dodd Rd./Smith Ave. intersection
- **Stage 5 (October):** I-494 to Hwy 110 including Ramp A

The resurfacing portion of the project will continue to affect traffic. Crews will minimize impacts on residential and business accesses as much as possible. Some temporary closures of driveways — for concrete driveway aprons — will be needed. Property owners who are anticipated to have closures will be notified in advance by the contractor. To minimize traffic impacts, crews will:

- Work on one side of the street at a time to minimize required closures
- Work in one-mile increments
- Contact businesses with in-person visits and flyers
- Provide business access signs
- Create temporary business accesses
- Work with residents who require full-time driveway access

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## Xcel Energy project

Xcel Energy has a natural gas relocation project along Hwy 149. Construction on their project began before the Hwy 149 resurfacing activities and work is anticipated to be completed in August. The project also may have traffic impacts, including closures during the following times:

- **Mid-June – late July:** Dodd Rd. from Wentworth Ave. to Delaware Ave.
- **Early July – early August:** Dodd Rd. from Hwy 110 to Lake Dr.
- **Late July – early August:** Intersection of Delaware Ave. and Dodd Rd. (1 to 2-week closure)

Please contact Bill Lynaugh with questions regarding the Xcel Energy project at: (651) 328-4358 or [William.Lynaugh@xcelenergy.com](mailto:William.Lynaugh@xcelenergy.com).

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## Stay connected

For more information on Hwy 149/Smith Ave. High Bridge project, including current traffic impacts and detours, visit: [mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy149highbridge](http://mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy149highbridge).

- Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/mndot](https://facebook.com/mndot) and Twitter: [@mndotnews](https://twitter.com/mndotnews)
- Email the project team at: [info@hwy149highbridge.com](mailto:info@hwy149highbridge.com)
- Call the project hotline at: 651-286-8484

For real-time travel information anywhere in Minnesota dial 5-1-1 or visit: [www.511mn.org/](http://www.511mn.org/).