



Newsletter Issue 1, March 2012

The Red Wing Bridge Project

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, the State of Wisconsin, and the City of Red Wing, has initiated the Red Wing Bridge Project. The Project includes the Highway 63 (Eisenhower) Bridge over the Mississippi River and the Highway 63 Bridge over Highway 61, as well as the highway connections to Highway 61, Minnesota Highway 58, and approach roadways in Wisconsin.

The Eisenhower Bridge carries Highway 63 across the river from Red Wing and connects to the State of Wisconsin. The bridge provides the only regional crossing of the river for approximately 30 miles upstream and downstream for several communities on both the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides of the river.

Completed in 1960, the Eisenhower Bridge is a steel truss through-deck bridge that crosses the Mississippi River main channel at Red Wing. The bridge is 1,631 feet long, 35 feet wide, and stands 65 feet above the river. The two-lane bridge currently carries an average of 11,500 vehicles per day (2011 count).

Schedule

MnDOT is currently in the preliminary design phase, which includes gathering data and reviewing options, to determine if the bridges should be rehabilitated or replaced. Final design is scheduled to be completed between 2014 and 2017. Construction is proposed for summer 2018.

Key Issues

- The Eisenhower Bridge is fracture critical, meaning that if one fracture critical member of the bridge were to fail, the entire bridge could collapse.
- The Highway 63 Bridge over Highway 61 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- MnDOT is studying a rehabilitation option for the existing bridges.
- Maintaining traffic during any construction to the maximum extent possible is a key concern.
- Municipal consent is required from the City of Red Wing.

Purpose & Need for Project

The Purpose and Need Statement formally defines why MnDOT is doing the project and states what problems must be addressed in order to have a successful outcome. Alternatives considered will be evaluated against the Purpose and Need Statement for the project.

Draft Purpose Statement: The primary purpose of the project is to provide a structurally sound bridge crossing of the Mississippi River Main Channel at Red Wing, Minnesota and a structurally sound crossing of Highway 61. In addition, the project needs to maintain the connection between the Red Wing, Minnesota and Wisconsin highway systems located on Trenton Island, and provide adequate capacity to safely accommodate future transportation needs within the design life of the bridges, while maintaining traffic to the maximum extent possible during construction.

Your Destination...Our Priority





Public Involvement

Get Involved. Stay Involved.

We encourage your participation, input and questions throughout the project development process. We will hold three public open house meetings through 2013.

You can have newsletters, meeting notices and study updates sent directly to your email inbox by visiting the project website and clicking the "Email Updates" button.

Email Updates

Staying informed is easy with automatic email updates. To sign up, just type mndot.gov into your browser, scroll down the page then click on the "Email Updates" button and follow the instructions.

Please Consider Attending the First Open House Scheduled for:

Date: Thurs., April 12, 2012

Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Location: Red Wing Public Library, Foot Room (225 East Ave., Red Wing, 55066)

Exhibits will be available for review and staff will be present to answer questions and hear your comments.

For More Information Contact:

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Public Open House Scheduled for April 12th

MnDOT staff, consultants and local representatives will host an open house to introduce the project, answer your questions, and receive your comments and input.

The open house is scheduled for **Thursday, April 12, 2012 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** at the **Red Wing Public Library** located at **225 East Avenue in Red Wing**. You can show up any time, and a short presentation will be given at **5:30 p.m.**

The meeting is a great opportunity to learn about the project, the process, key issues, provide feedback and get more information on how to get involved. We are interested in hearing your issues, concerns, and suggestions regarding the project.

For More Information About This Project Contact:

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More Information Can Be Found On The Project Website:

www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/redwing-bridge/index.html

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