

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Why is the bridge being replaced?

The existing bridge has exceeded its planned design life and currently requires costly ongoing maintenance and frequent inspections. A replacement structure is planned to reduce ongoing costs and provide increased value to the public.

Is the current bridge dangerous?

The existing bridge is safe for travel. Conditions are being routinely monitored and any needed repairs will be addressed until the bridge is replaced.

Can the bridge be rehabilitated and/or widened instead of replacing it?

Bridge repair costs are increasing as the bridge continues to age. Rehabilitating and widening the bridge will ultimately be more expensive than replacing the structure.

Why is a new bridge safer?

A new bridge can be built wider for highway users and using fewer bridge piers in the water that can be struck by boaters and barges. Additionally, a new bridge can be designed to use more durable materials and structural systems than typically available when the current bridge was built.

Why must the road be closed for so long?

The bridge is very large and must be constructed over open waters from barges. This prevents construction operations from progressing as quickly when done from dry land. Furthermore, the river is an active commercially navigable inland waterway and barge traffic must be maintained as much as practically possible.

Will new right-of-way be required?

No acquisition of new permanent right-of-way or easement is currently anticipated for the project.

When is construction scheduled to begin?

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026. However, the schedule is dependent on funding and subject to change.