

New Mississippi River Bridge is Area's Largest Transportation Project Since Interstate System

Following eight years of planning and nearly two years of construction, a new 2,573 foot, 11-span steel arch bridge opened in downtown La Crosse over the Mississippi River (US 14/61/WIS 16).

"This bridge is a technical achievement that will stand through this century, serving as the gateway into one of Wisconsin's most vibrant communities," said Governor Doyle at the ribbon cutting ceremony. "It will result in safer and more efficient access to destinations in Wisconsin and Minnesota. And it will play a major factor in keeping Wisconsin's economy growing."

Joe Olson, director of WisDOT's transportation district office in La Crosse, explained that "This is the largest transportation improvement project in this area since construction of the Interstate system." The 475-foot long arch section of the bridge was floated into place when it was moved from the west bank of the Mississippi River and placed on permanent piers spanning the navigational channel.

Cedar Corporation designed nine piers and the west abutment for the new bridge, which opened in November 2004. Pier #3 on the west end includes a stair system that provides access to the bridge sidewalk from a pedestrian trail 50 feet below that runs along Pettibone Park and the river. Cedar Corporation subcontracted to the Madison office of Earth Tech, Inc. for the pier and west abutment design. The two main piers and arch were designed by WisDOT's central office. The ten approach spans were designed by the Madison office of Earth Tech, Inc. The approach spans are all steel trapezoidal box girders with double or triple tubs in each span depending on span length.

The project created the first-ever four-lane crossing of US 14/61/WIS 16 at downtown La Crosse, with the new bridge carrying two lanes of eastbound traffic and the bridge at Cass Street carrying two lanes of westbound traffic. For additional information, please contact Greg Wolfe, PE, Structural Group Director, at Cedar Corporation, 1-800-472-7372 or 715-235-9081.



The two previous bridges over the Mississippi River at La Crosse were completed in 1891 and 1939 (shown in top photo). Cedar Corporation designed nine substructure units for the new bridge (shown in bottom photo).

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Area Communities Receive Grants

Village of Balsam Lake - \$150,000 WDNR Targeted Runoff Management Grant.

Village of Boyceville - \$500,000 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

Town of Colby - \$188,946 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

City of Durand - \$11,250 WDOT Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grant.

City of Menomonie - \$59,363 WDOT Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grant.

Red Cedar Lakes Association, Inc. - \$85,065 WDNR Lake Protection Grant for Island Restoration Project.

Town of Stone Lake - \$19,040 WDNR Lake Protection Grant for Water Quality Pretreatment Pond.

Town of Stone Lake - \$300,000 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

Town of Troy - \$46,650 WDOT Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grant.

Village of Woodville - \$23,800 WDNR Urban Nonpoint Source Planning Grant.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

GRANT AGENCY	GRANT PROGRAM	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Wis. Dept. of Commerce	CDBG-Public Facilities	Ongoing
Wis. Dept. of Commerce	CDBG - Public Facilities for Economic Dev.	Ongoing
USDA Rural Development	Water and Environmental Programs	Ongoing
FEMA	Assistance to Firefighters Grants	April 2, 2005
Wis. DNR	Urban Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Grants	April 15, 2005
Wis. DNR	Targeted Runoff Management Grants	April 15, 2005
Wis. DNR	Local Assistance Grant Program - Parks & Recreation	May 1, 2005
Wis. Dept. of Commerce - BOH	CDBG - Housing Rehabilitation	Pre-application - June 2005
Wis. Dept. of Commerce	Community Based Economic Development Grants	October 2005

For further information, please contact Wendy Sander at 1-800-472-7372 or 715-235-9081.



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