



I-94 MODERNIZATION PROJECT E-UPDATE

Welcome to the I-94 e-Update. Every month, we send you the latest happenings on the I-94 project. We'd love to hear from you, too!

JULY 2018

Small Business Matters



Members of the incoming SBE Training Program for Construction with their instructors, Dr. Audrey Andrews, (right of center) SBE program director; and Bonnie Yu (left of center), assistant I-94 project manager.

The I-94 project is about more than just rebuilding a key part of the region's infrastructure. An important part of the project is MDOT's Advanced Bridges Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Training Program. The program takes a collaborative, hands-on approach to increasing the technical capacity, experience and business acumen of SBEs so that they can qualify for work on I-94 and future infrastructure projects.

The first class of small businesses has already graduated from the SBE Training Program for Design. Last month, a second group of small businesses started their work in the SBE Training Program for Construction. The firms are Abonmarche, CMTS, CTI and Associates, Jacob Gates and Associates, Onyx Enterprise, RS Engineering, Scales and Associates, Spaulding DeDecker, Survey Solution, TYME Engineering, and Value Engineering.

For more information about the SBE Training Program, visit our website at www.i94detroit.org/work-with-us or contact Dr. Audrey Andrews at aandrews@hntb.com.

The Art of the Project

A public art installation at the Cass Avenue bridge has been approved to be part of the I-94 project. The project is still in the early development phase and will be created and installed after the new bridge is reconstructed. Future activities include recruiting a public art committee of local arts professionals and community members and issuing an open call for artists to submit qualifications to be selected to create the artwork. What can a transportation-oriented public art project look like? One example is the mural at the Bagley Avenue pedestrian bridge created by local community members and Detroit artist Hubert Massey as part of the MDOT Ambassador Gateway project in 2010. We will keep you posted on the Cass Avenue bridge and other art projects that may be included in the project.



Community members work on the mosaic, titled "Spiral of Life." Image courtesy of the artist, Hubert Massey.



The completed mosaic on the Bagley Avenue pedestrian bridge. Image courtesy of the artist, Hubert Massey.

Bridges

For a while it was a little hard to tell exactly what was going on at the Chene Street and Gratiot Avenue construction sites. But now drivers can clearly identify key parts of the new bridges. At Chene Street, work will continue on abutment B north of I-94 and construction workers will backfill behind abutment A south of the freeway. At Gratiot Avenue, workers will continue forming and pouring backwalls and diaphragms between the concrete beams and then prepare to cast concrete for the bridge deck.

Glossary

abutment — the supporting structures at the ends of the bridge span where the beams rest

backfill — the material replacing the excavated soil

diaphragms — bridge members that resist lateral forces and improve the bridge's load-sharing characteristics



Installation of reinforcing steel and formwork for the Chene Street bridge abutment B north of I-94.



Formation of the diaphragm between the beams on the Gratiot Avenue bridge. The T-shaped structures are the ends of the concrete beams.



Working near beam #11M on the Gratiot Avenue bridge. (Note the number written on the beam to the left of the worker's hard hat.)

Learn Even More

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