



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!

**SEPTEMBER
2018**

Advanced Bridges

We often wait until projects are complete before showing “before and after” comparison pictures. But after seeing the striking difference between these two photos of the east half of the Gratiot Avenue bridge, we just couldn't wait to share! The new photo illustrates the goal of the I-94 advanced bridges initiative — to replace bridges along the corridor in the poorest condition with new ones that are well-designed, aesthetically pleasing, and safe.

Work continues on the Gratiot Avenue bridge with the team removing concrete-shaping forms and making minor surface repairs. The upcoming work on the west half of the Gratiot Avenue bridge is to complete the two abutments that will support the bridge beams.



The old Gratiot Avenue bridge originally constructed in 1958.

Work in Progress

New sidewalks are being constructed on the Chene Street bridge. Here's a short lesson on what the team is doing in the photo below, pictured left to right:

First, concrete is poured into forms to shape the sidewalk. Then, a **screed** (the machine operated by the third man to the left) is used to make the concrete level. The team uses minor amounts of **water** (hence the hose) to help smooth and finish the concrete. The concrete is leveled again with a **bull float** (held by the finisher on the right) and brooms are used to add texture to the finished surface.



Concrete beams under the east half of the Gratiot Avenue bridge constructed in 2018.



A construction team creates a new sidewalk at the Chene Street bridge.

I-94 Corridor Community Champions

Alkebu-lan Village

Who They Are: An Afrikan-centered, community-based organization committed to developing and nurturing an environment where families work together to build healthy minds, bodies and communities. Founded by Marvis Cofield and a group of Black Belt instructors in 1978.

What They Do: Homework assistance and tutoring, leadership training, visual and performing arts, youth entrepreneurship training and community service, youth and adult sports, and fitness.

Outstanding Achievement: Providing educational, cultural and recreational programs to more than 1,000 Detroit youth and their families each year. Introducing thousands of students to the martial arts as a means of self-development, including 60 promoted to the level of Black Belt. Celebrating 40 years of service to the community in 2018.

Learn more at: www.alkebulanvillage.com or call 313-921-1616.



Students and staff at the 35th Annual Motor City National Open Karate Championship hosted by Alkebu-lan Village. (Photo courtesy of Alkebu-lan Village.)



Students perform a dance in the 2015 Afrikan World History program. (Photo courtesy of Alkebu-lan Village.)



Students at Alkebu-lan Village participate in an African cuisine class. (Photo courtesy of Alkebu-lan Village.)



Students and families check out the Wayne State University science and 4H reading tables at Family Fun Day 2015. (Photo courtesy of Alkebu-lan Village.)



Learn Even More

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