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I-94 Modernization Project E-Update

Summer/Fall 2022

Welcome to the I-94 e-Update! Here are the latest happenings on the project.

Coming Up: I-94 Freeway in Detroit to Close for Five Days

For worker and public safety, MDOT will close the I-94 freeway between I-96 and I-75 in Detroit for five days to continue work on the Second Avenue bridge. The closure is proposed to take place from 4 a.m. Thursday, Sep. 29, through 4 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, weather permitting.

During the closure, eastbound I-94 traffic will be diverted to eastbound I-96, then northbound I-75 back to eastbound I-94. Westbound I-94 traffic will follow southbound I-75, then westbound I-96 back to westbound I-94. Maps of the posted detours can be found [on the website](#).

For updates about the freeway closure, stay tuned to local media, visit www.I94Detroit.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



Progress on the Second Avenue bridge is driven by a diverse team.



Diego Bustamante, a member of the Second Avenue construction team, at work.

Who Built the Bridge?

Nineteenth-century American industrialist Andrew Carnegie said, “Teamwork ... is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

He could well have been speaking of the hundreds of people who worked together to create the Second Avenue bridge. This new and unusual structure now spanning the I-94 freeway in Detroit’s Midtown replaces its nearly 60-year-old predecessor.

Roughly speaking, the Second Avenue team can be divided into four groups:

- The engineers who **developed the original concept** for the network tied-arch structure and those that designed it. ([Click here](#) for more about the bridge.)
- The construction team that spent months **building the bridge skeleton off-site** in Wayne State University parking lot #22 and simultaneously built the bridge abutments on each side of the freeway.
- The self-propelled modular transporter (SPMT) team that **moved the 1,100-ton bridge skeleton** out of the parking lot, across the freeway and onto those abutments.
- The construction engineers and inspectors who **monitored the bridge throughout the process** to ensure quality workmanship and materials, and compliance with design specifications.

With the bridge in place, the construction team continues the work that will ready the crossing to connect neighborhoods along Second Avenue once again.

[This video](#), one of five about the project, will introduce you to some of the people whose dedication and teamwork brought the bridge to fruition.

To see the other Second Avenue bridge videos, [click here](#).



At the Grand River Avenue bridge, both abutments have been built and the center pier is in progress.

Advanced Bridges Update

At the Grand River Avenue bridge, utility installation and grading work on the eastbound and westbound I-94 service drives and bridge approaches are ongoing.

The north and south bridge abutments are built and the contractor is currently building the median pier.

After the pier is built, the bridge beams will be set which is tentatively scheduled for October.



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