

State Project ID: 5992-11-21/28

Date: January 23, 2026

John Nolen Drive

Lakeside Street to North Shore Drive

Dane County



Project Weekly Update

(John Nolen Drive Construction)

General Project Information – The John Nolen Drive project includes reconstructing John Nolen Drive and six bridges that span the causeway. New curb and gutter with a raised median separating northbound and southbound traffic will narrow traffic lanes to calm high traffic speeds. The Capital City Trail will be moved further from the roadway with the addition of three new bridge structures, increasing pedestrian safety and greenspace along the corridor. The trail will also be widened, increasing the capacity of the trail, with separate paths for bikes and foot traffic.

Project Schedule – Stage 2 Start Date: November 24, 2025

Anticipated Stage 2 Completion: August 2026

Current Stage / Traffic Impacts – Stage 2: Work entails reconstructing southbound John Nolen Drive, reconstructing three bridges on the causeway, and the Basset to Bedford pedestrian path.

- John Nolen Dr restricted to one lane each direction on existing northbound lanes
- No left turns from Broom St to John Nolen Dr
- Nighttime full closures (causeway only) anticipated for bridge girder installation

Upcoming Stage / Traffic Impacts – Stage 2a (anticipated start in late February and concurrent with Stage 2): Work entails reconstructing the western half of the Broom St intersection

- John Nolen Dr restricted to one lane each direction on existing northbound lanes
- Broom St closed between W Wilson St and John Nolen Dr
- Bike and pedestrian traffic detoured to North Shore during railroad reconstruction.
Railroad work performed by others under contract with WSOR.

Work Week of 1/26/26

- Bridge abutment and pier removal continues on all bridges

Work Week of 2/2/26

- Pile driving to begin on northernmost bridge



Traffic/Pedestrian/Bike Impacts

- The temporary crosswalk on the north side of Broom St is in place and will be the only crossing at Broom St until the project is complete. Sidewalk along the southern side of Broom St is closed.
- The Capital City Trail remains open. No additional trail disruptions are anticipated until summer of 2026. Cyclists are encouraged to dismount from their bikes when crossing active construction zones near Broom St and North Shore Dr.
- All vehicles on John Nolen Dr use existing northbound lanes between Lakeside St and the Monona Terrace.
 - Both directions of traffic are reduced to one lane prior to entering the active work zone.
 - Signs have been installed on both end of the project to provide direction on where to “zipper merge”. Motorists should utilize all lanes and avoid early merging.
- Motorists are reminded the statutory speed limit has been reduced to 25mph for the duration of the project. The state of Wisconsin doubles fines in construction or work zones when workers are present. These doubled fines apply not only to speeding, but also other traffic violations such as unsafe lane changes or failure to yield.

Please be alert when traveling along the John Nolen Drive corridor. Please note that some work is dependent on weather and may be subject to change. Thank you in advance for your patience throughout this project.

Contact Information

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If you would like to be added to the weekly update distribution list, please sign up using the subscribe button on the project website or email your name and email address to daniel.bauknecht@dot.wi.gov.

Project Website

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Friday, January 23, 2026 - Engineering staff working remotely
The Engineering office in the City County Building is closed January 23. All services available virtually. Please call our general line for assistance: (608) 266-4751.

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John Nolen Drive

Monthly Meeting Updates

Monthly construction progress meetings will be held IN-PERSON at the field office located at 701 E Washington Ave, Suite LL3 (former Brink Lounge) on the first Tuesday of every month at 11 a.m. starting on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. The public is welcome to attend these meetings to learn about construction progress, upcoming work, as well as opportunity to ask questions of the construction team. Access to the field office building is located off of the back parking lot, which is accessed off of the S Blount St driveway. There will be door signs setup directing the public where to go to find the meeting location.

Progress Pictures

