

State Project ID: 5992-11-21/28

Date: March 6, 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 early April, work is concurrent with Stage 2): Work entails reconstructing the western half of the Broom St intersection

- Phase 1* entails reconstructing outbound/eastbound lanes of Broom St
 - Broom St (outbound only) closed between W Wilson St and John Nolen Dr
- Phase 2 entails reconstructing inbound lanes of Broom St
 - Broom St (full closure) 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.
- A temporary “all way stop” will be installed at the S Bedford St/North Shore Dr intersection to address an anticipated increase of vehicle traffic

Upcoming Stage / Traffic Impacts – Stage 2b (anticipated start March 23, work is concurrent with Stage 2): Work entails reconstructing the western half of the North Shore Dr intersection extending roughly 400 feet west of the WSOR rail crossing

- Phase 1* entails reconstructing inbound/westbound lanes of North Shore Dr
 - North Shore Dr (inbound only) closed between John Nolen Dr and S Bedford St
- Phase 2 entails reconstructing outbound lanes of North Shore Dr
 - North Shore Dr (full closure) closed between John Nolen Dr and S Bedford St

Bike and pedestrian traffic detoured to Broom St during railroad reconstruction. Railroad work performed by others under contract with WSOR.

*Stage 2b phase 1 may occur concurrently with Stage 2a phase 1

Work Week of 3/9/26

- North bridge
 - Pile driving for pier
 - Framing pier cap
 - Backfilling/grading north abutment
 - South abutment removal
- Middle bridge
 - Framing south abutment
 - Pile driving for pier
- South bridge
 - Backfilling/grading abutments
- Storm sewer installation along causeway
- Excavate pits for jack and bore under North Shore Dr rail crossing

Work Week of 3/16/26

- North bridge
 - Framing pier cap continues
 - Excave south abutment for riprap
 - Pile driving for south abutment
- Middle bridge
 - Pile driving for pier continues
 - Framing pier cap
 - Backfilling/grading south abutment

- North abutment removal
- South bridge
 - Pier template installation
- Storm sewer installation on causeway
- Jack and bore casing pipes under North Shore Dr rail crossing

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.

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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

[John Nolen Drive | Engineering | City of Madison, WI](#)

The screenshot shows the City of Madison website's navigation bar with "CITY OF MADISON" on the left and "Departments", "Report a Problem", "Services", "Jobs", "Accounts", "Contact", and a search box on the right. Below the navigation is a banner for "Engineering" with a sub-menu including "Stormwater", "Sanitary Sewer", "Streets & Paths", "Facilities", "Developers & Contractors", "Permits", "Projects" (highlighted), and "About". A breadcrumb trail reads "City of Madison / Engineering / Projects / John Nolen Drive". The main content area is titled "John Nolen Drive" and features a "Monthly Meeting Updates" section with text about in-person meetings at 701 E Washington Ave. A "Latest Update 2/27/2026" section is also visible, followed by "General Project Information". On the left side of the page, there is a "Projects" sidebar menu with items: "Bike", "City Facilities", "Road Construction" (with a plus sign), "Sewer / Storm", "Archived Projects", "John Nolen Drive" (with a minus sign), "Contact", "Documents, Plans", "Map", and "Project Overview".

Progress Pictures











