

State Project ID: 5992-11-21/28

Date: March 27, 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

North Shore Dr intersection: Phase 1 work entails reconstructing inbound/westbound lanes of the North Shore Dr intersection extending roughly 400 feet west of the WSOR rail crossing.

- North Shore Dr (inbound only) closed between John Nolen Dr and S Bedford St

Upcoming Work/ Traffic Impacts

S Broom St intersection - starting April 6th: Phase 1 work entails reconstructing outbound/eastbound lanes of S Broom St.

- Broom St (outbound only) closed between W Wilson St and John Nolen Dr

S Broom St intersection – Phase 2: Phase 2 work entails reconstructing inbound/westbound lanes of S Broom St. Work will occur after inbound North Shore Dr reopens to traffic. Anticipated start is late-April.

- Broom St (full closure) closed between W Wilson St 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

North Shore Dr intersection – Phase 2: Phase 2 work entails reconstructing outbound/eastbound lanes of North Shore. Work will occur after S Broom St reopens to traffic. Anticipated start is early-June

- North Shore Dr (full closure) closed between S Bedford St and John Nolen Dr
- Bike and pedestrian traffic detoured to S Broom St during railroad reconstruction. Railroad work performed by others under contract with WSOR.

Work Week of 3/30/26

- North bridge
 - Set girders (span 2)
- Middle bridge
 - Pier pile template installation
 - Pile driving for pier
- South bridge
 - Pile driving for pier
 - Frame pier cap
- Jack and bore casing under North Shore Dr rail crossing
- Storm sewer installation and grading on WB North Shore Dr

Work Week of 4/6/26 *EB S Broom St to Close*****

- North bridge
 - Pile driving for south abutment
- Middle bridge
 - Pile driving for pier

- Frame pier cap
- South bridge
 - Set girders
 - Begin framing deck
- Curb and gutter installation on WB North Shore Dr
- Jack and bore casing under North Shore Dr rail crossing
- Pavement removal on EB S Broom St

Motorist Impacts

- 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.

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 July of 2026. Cyclists are encouraged to dismount from their bikes when crossing active construction zones near S Broom St and North Shore Dr.

Waterway Impacts

- A navigable channel will be open for the duration of the project under the middle set of bridges. The channel has red and green buoys to aid navigation and regulatory buoys to delineate hazards. No other channels will be open and waterway users should avoid entering area with active construction

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

Mark Sponem, WisDOT – Project Manager

Email: mark.sponem@dot.wi.gov

Dan Bauknecht, WisDOT – Project Engineer

Email: daniel.bauknecht@dot.wi.gov



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. At the top, the navigation bar includes "CITY OF MADISON", "Departments", "Report a Problem", "Services", "Jobs", "Accounts", "Contact", and a search box. Below the navigation is a banner for "Engineering" with a sub-menu: "Stormwater", "Sanitary Sewer", "Streets & Paths", "Facilities", "Developers & Contractors", "Permits", "Projects", and "About". The "Projects" menu item is highlighted. Below the banner is a breadcrumb trail: "City of Madison / Engineering / Projects / John Nolen Drive". The main content area is split into two columns. The left column is a sidebar menu for "Projects" with items: "Bike", "City Facilities", "Road Construction", "Sewer / Storm", "Archived Projects", "John Nolen Drive" (which is expanded to show "Contact", "Documents, Plans", "Map", and "Project Overview"), and "Project Overview". The right column has a main heading "John Nolen Drive" followed by a sub-heading "Monthly Meeting Updates". The text under this heading states: "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." Below this is another sub-heading "Latest Update 3/20/2026" and the start of a section "General Project Information".

Progress Pictures











