

State Project ID: 5992-11-21/28

Date: December 12, 2025

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 12/15/25

- Cofferdam installation continues at southernmost bridge
- Bridge demolition (deck and girder removal) continues

Work Week of 12/22/25

- Bridge demolition (deck and girder removal) continues
- No work is scheduled 12/24-12/26

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.
 - Southbound traffic is reduced to one lane prior to entering the active work zone. Motorists should utilize all lanes and avoid early merging.
 - Northbound traffic will see message boards providing 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.

Events

Olin Park is currently hosting the annual Fantasy in Lights display. Access remains available from both E Lakeside St and Olin-Turville Ct.

[Welcome to the Holiday Fantasy in Lights - Fantasy In Lights](#)

*NECA and IBEW Local 159, along with many sponsors, bring you the **37th Annual Holiday Fantasy in Lights**. 6 weeks of lights at Olin Park for all to drive through and enjoy at no charge. Over 60 lighted holiday displays to include tunnels and local scenes and treats. Lights on at Dusk- Candy Canes handed out at the exit 4:30pm to 10:00pm. Lights on every single evening through December 31st.*



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

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

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The screenshot shows the City of Madison Engineering website. The header features the City of Madison logo and the word 'Engineering'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Stormwater, Sanitary Sewer, Streets & Paths, Facilities, Developers & Contractors, Permits, Projects (which is the active tab), and About. The main content area is titled 'John Nolen Drive' and contains sections for 'Monthly Meeting Updates' (with a description of monthly in-person meetings at a field office) and 'Latest Update 12/5/2025' (with a link to 'General Project Information'). On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Projects' menu and links to various engineering services like Bike, City Facilities, Road Construction, Sewer / Storm, Archived Projects, and Contact. There are also links for 'Documents, Plans', 'Map', 'Project Overview', and 'Public Engagement'.

Progress Pictures

