



MnDOT D6  
Construction of the Red Wing Bridge Project  
MnDOT Public Engagement Workshop - HANDOUTS  
March 13, 2018

Oct 30, 2017

## The Red Wing Bridge Project: The Season to be Thankful

By Terry Ward

Recently, I had the great honor to attend the annual American Segmental Bridge Institute (ASBI) conference in New York City and accept ASBI awards on behalf of MnDOT for both the Dresbach and Winona Bridge projects. This was one of the highlights of my 30 year career in Civil Engineering. I am extremely fortunate to have been a small part of these signature projects and thankful to work with such a great team of construction inspectors who truly are passionate about their profession and dedicated to the work they do. These awards are clear examples of their extraordinary efforts.

I've also been reflecting on the work we've accomplished on the Red Wing Bridge project this summer and I am thankful for many things. Some of them include:

- Red Wing City Engineer, Jay Owens, and his staff at Public Works. Jay and his entire team have been great to work with and they represent the Red Wing community extremely well.
- Red Wing Chamber Executive Director, Patty Brown, and her staff. Patty and her team have been actively engaged in the project and generated a great deal of interest with the recent project visits.
- Kit Murray at the Red Wing Republican Eagle for her continued work in covering the Red Wing Bridge project this year.
- Bob and Margi Moyer and all the campers this summer at the Island Campground. They have been very understanding and accommodating with the bridge construction work we've done.
- Brad Smith at the Harbor Bar. He has allowed us to "launch" numerous project site visits from his parking lot this summer.
- Bill Simmons and Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) team. Bill and his team have been very accommodating and understanding with all the work we are doing around their campus.
- The entire Red Wing Shoes team has been responsive to all our needs, including the closing of their back parking lot for an extended period of time. We are truly thankful for their efforts.
- The entire Red Wing community has very engaged in the Red Wing Bridge project and great to work with.
- The Zenith Tech team (ZTI) has shown us they are committed to building the Red Wing Bridge project on schedule and on budget.
- On a personal note, MnDOT Field Specialist Eric Breitsprecher, has done a fantastic job of leading our entire field staff in building a high quality project.

The new bridge is expected to open to traffic by fall of 2019 before we take down the existing bridge in this on this \$63.4 million construction project.

You may have seen me and Red Wing City Engineer Jay Owens together. We've been presenting information about the project to several civic group and we'd be happy to visit with your group or provide your organization or business with the necessary information about the project so you can keep your employees informed. We've found that if you know more about the project, you can help others understand it and minimize any possible disruptions it might cause. We do regular updates on the Community Access Channel 6, so you can catch us there as we provide updates and field questions. We also talk with you about the impacts of the slip ramp closure next spring if you desire.

You can learn more about the project or sign up for email updates by going to MnDOT's project web site <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/redwing-bridge/> or you can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RedWingBridgeProject/>.

-----  
Terry Ward is the MnDOT construction project manager for the Red Wing Bridge project. He can be reached at 507-421-5318 or [terry.ward@state.mn.us](mailto:terry.ward@state.mn.us). This column is scheduled to run at the first of each month.

###



## **Constructing the Red Wing Bridge Project – Lessons Learned and Principals**

### **Construction Phase: Lessons Learned and Principals**

- EE works best when led by the Project Construction Managers with support from District PAC and Consultant's as necessary.
- Each project is going to have its unique External Engagement "politics."
- Most projects of today are too complex and too expensive not to treat EE with kid gloves.
- Become holistic at External Engagement with your preliminary and final design team before the Construction Phase starts.
- Get involved during the Design phases.
  - Know the expectations of your local partners.
  - Review plans and specs and make sure construction staging and maintenance of traffic are going to work for you and your local partners, while meeting all environmental permitting and other important aspects (historic, contamination....).
- Establish Contacts before Construction starts.
  - Needs to be incorporated into contract.
  - Early efforts generate significant time savings.
  - Can be done more on our schedule as compared to waiting until after letting.
- Include External Engagement expectations and responsibilities in the MnDOT construction oversight team.
  - Leader.
  - Inspectors.
- Provide Contact information to public.
  - Cell phones of project leaders.
- Be the face of the project
  - People want answers, not run-around.
  - Builds trust.
  - Would rather hear from them directly.
- Engage the contractor in External Engagement and make a part of the weekly field meetings to show importance.
- Don't fear the media, use them strategically to the benefit of the project. Allow them access to whatever project information they desire and don't keep them in the dark.



*Red Wing Bridge Project*

- Stay professional at all times and do not take things personal. Let your project partners vent if they need to. Don't take the bait for a negative experience.
- Treat everyone with the same level of respect. Each public contact is treated the same as Legislators are.
- Don't play the blame game – for example blame the Scoping or Design Phases for issues not addressed for the Construction Phase. Get involved in these earlier phases. For these managing the earlier phases, allow Construction staff into those phases.