



REFLECTIONS

FLOOD OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UNDERWAY

After weeks of record rainfall and multiple flooding events, construction is once again in high gear on the Milton-Madison Bridge Project.

Construction began this month on the elevated detour ramps that will extend to the bridge from Ferry St. on Vaughn Dr. and from Ferry St. near the Milton boat ramp and KY 36. Traffic is expected to be rerouted onto the detour ramps later this summer.

Meanwhile, rehabilitation of the existing bridge piers continues as workers build cofferdams around the piers. Water is pumped out, giving crews a dry environment in which to work as they begin strengthening the existing piers, bringing them up to modern standards.

“Even though the flooding slowed us down, we’ve accomplished quite a bit since January,” said Kevin Hetrick, project manager for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). “In addition to the start of pier rehabilitation, construction access has been built, design is over halfway finished, and structural steel is being fabricated.”



Pier strengthening is underway.

SPRING FLOODING

During March, April and part of May, project construction was impacted by some of the most sustained flooding the area has seen in years. While design work on the existing piers and steel fabrication continued behind the scenes, flooding hampered cofferdam construction for a time.

“The flooding has definitely been a challenge,” said Andy Barber, project manager for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). “We’ve had three separate high-water events this spring.”

The project schedule has a number of days built in to accommodate routine weather issues, but with prolonged flooding, that number was exceeded. The start of significant construction has been delayed, but Walsh is working hard to make up the lost construction days.



Three sustained high-water events occurred this spring.

“We think we may be able to make up some of that time by working longer days and weekends,” said Walsh Construction Company Project Manager Charlie Gannon.

The first of two brief bridge closures is still expected later this summer. The public will be notified well in advance of the closure.

What’s Next?

- Ferry St. detour ramps under construction
- Milton access platform nearing completion
- Existing pier renovation underway

Regatta course

Due to bridge construction activity, the course for the Madison Regatta will be shortened for the next two years. Because of construction on the existing piers and the Milton access platform, the course will not be able to travel under the bridge. Regatta officials decided the course – which is typically 2.5 miles – will be reduced to 1.625 miles for the next 2 years. The Regatta is July 1-3.

Making Connections

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

Andrea Clifford
 KYTC District 5
 Public Information Officer
 502-210-5403
andrea.clifford@ky.gov

Project Web site:
MiltonMadisonBridge.com

Twitter:
[@MMBridgeProject](https://twitter.com/MMBridgeProject)

FALCONS

Only one family will be relocated because of the bridge project – a family of falcons! In January, a peregrine falcon nesting box – that has been on top of a pier on the Kentucky side of the river for many years – was moved to a pier near the Indiana side. That pier will not be reused as part of the project, allowing the birds to remain undisturbed during construction.

For months, biologists from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources monitored the pair from the ground, hoping the falcons followed the nesting box to its new location. And they did. By April there were four falcon chicks in the nest. The chicks were inoculated against disease and banded, allowing officials to track their progress.

In late May, one of the chicks either fell or was blown off the pier. The chick – which could not yet fly – survived the fall into the river and floated to the Madison causeway where it was rescued by Walsh Construction Company Project Engineer Tom Swert. A few days later, the chick – now named “Lucky” – was reunited with his parents on the pier.

The other male chick is named “Hammer,” for the pile hammers which will be used frequently during construction. One of the female falcon chicks is named “Edie” for actress Edie Falco – peregrine falcons belong to the genus “falco” – and the other female is named “Diana,” which means “goddess of the hunt” in Roman mythology.



Four falcon chicks were banded recently.

All of the chicks are healthy, learning to fly and are expected to leave the nest sometime this month.



Diana

Edie

Hammer

Lucky

Falcons have nested on the Milton-Madison Bridge since 2002. While they are no longer on the endangered species list, they are still federally protected; it is illegal to harm or destroy a falcon or its nest. INDOT and KYTC agreed to relocate the pair as part of the project's environmental process.

If you're hoping to catch a glimpse of the falcon family, the nesting box is located on the first pier in the water on the Madison side of the river.

STAY INFORMED

With two live Web cameras, a construction photo gallery, traffic alerts and up-to-the-minute project news, MiltonMadisonBridge.com is the best place to follow project progress. The site is updated several times a week with the latest project information and photos that provide a close-up perspective on construction. Use the “Contact Us” tab to ask questions or make comments on the project. You can also follow the project via Twitter @MMBridgeProject. Project news and traffic alerts are posted frequently.